

a detailed account of all transmissible diseases with which you are professionally occupied, in order to determine if these are more common to one locality than to another, and to co-operate with the authorities in their efforts to prevent them. In the routine work of health boards the co-operation of the private practitioner is absolutely essential to success. He is looked to for the information that will indicate to the authorities where their efforts at prevention are to be expended. His concealment of a single case of contagious disease, whereby the authorities are prevented from exercising the necessary precautions to prevent its dissemination may, and often does, result in sickness and suffering among others.

In the rural districts of a number of our states there is no systematic registration of sickness and deaths, and in consequence dangerous epidemic diseases often occur in one locality or another without anyone beyond the infected focus being the wiser. Such are often districts on which the cities depend for their food supplies, and when these comprise such favourable vehicles for the propagation of contagion as dairy products, you can readily understand what this means to those receiving the commodities. A case in point—during the last autumn my attention was called to a more or less severe, but circumscribed, outbreak of typhoid fever in a part of Philadelphia. Inquiry revealed the fact that the district had been in large part supplied by milk from a farm on which during the three or four weeks preceding the outbreak there had been five cases of typhoid fever in a family of seven souls. None of these were reported during the time of their illness. Had they been it is readily to be seen how easily suffering, to say nothing of monetary loss, could have been prevented.

In your present frame of mind, your aspirations are doubtless to acquire a practice, earn an honest living, and, through intellectual growth, become distinguished in your profession, an ornament to society and a credit to your school. This is all as it should be, but I wish to say there are other things to be kept in mind—you are not only to be doctors but also citizens, and as such should concern yourselves to some extent with public questions; more so, I maintain, than has been the custom with physicians in the past.

Just now there are matters before the people of this country and the United States that are of fundamental importance to the public welfare, and are to be settled only by the most untiring and intelligent public effort. The question of water supply and sewage disposal; that of suitable sanatoria for the housing of destitute persons affected with tuberculosis; that of modernly equipped hospitals for the reception of contagious disease; that of authoritative sanitary control of food supply;