

the physicians with blanks for this purpose. Doubtless the Government, any liberal government, would be quite willing to pay fairly for such reports if the people through their representatives in parliament were willing to vote the money for the purpose. Are the people willing? Many members of parliament, including at least one physician, say, decidedly, No; that if they were to vote for a sum requisite for such purpose they would be censured by their constituents. Then we can only, or must, first of all, educate the people up to a right appreciation of the importance and necessity for such information. They will then doubtless be willing to pay fairly for it.

Now this is largely, almost wholly, in the hands of the medical practitioners of Canada. What will they do in this behalf? It has been repeatedly said by a few of them that physicians now do too much without remuneration, more than their share, etc., and that the government, the people, *i.e.*, of course, should pay for all such information. This is very true: the people should pay; but as it is now they will not pay at present. Shall we not, then, endeavor not only to teach them the value of having it done for their own sakes, but also to be willing in course of time to pay for the same—teach them without pay, for a time? What else can be done?

Medicine, it may here be observed, is not a business, but a liberal profession, perhaps the most liberal of all the professions, once chiefly practised free by the priesthood. Is not the profession, and are not the members of it as a class, worthy and desirous that it shall ever remain thus liberal, free, noble, bounteous? The physician gives what cannot be weighed or measured and hence well estimated as to its money value. He must, however, get a livelihood for his family, and in this business age a certain amount of business energy is necessary. As the *New York Medical Record* (of Jan. 16th, 1892) says, "The physician's sympathy for the suffering, and his absorbing interest in the scientific aspects of his cases, raise his mind above financial considerations and cause him to forget that he is working for the support of himself and his family, as well as for the good of humanity. The physician has furthermore,

as a rule, an inborn repugnance or incapacity for money-making pure and simple. He dislikes the financial relations and would gladly treat patients without a thought of fee, if he could be guaranteed an income to supply the needs of his family. Owing to this shrinking from even the appearance of being mercenary, he often hesitates to prosecute his just claims."

No one knows better than the writer how much has already been done by the medical profession in Canada in promoting and advancing the public health interests in the Dominion. It has always been foremost in this work, and, indeed, all sanitary progress is due to its efforts. Will physicians not now, "one and all," continue thus liberal and not allow the question of "pay" to influence them to the neglect of any public benefit or scientific proceeding?

Colton, it appears, long ago said, "Physicians are becoming too mercenary." But he wickedly added, "parsons too lazy, and lawyers too powerful."

Notwithstanding the influence which wealth now gives, there is that which wealth cannot purchase or procure. If the profession desires to retain its high position, or to push itself up to its proper place in society, as the first of all professions, the members of it must not approach the "mercenary," although they may properly and should place a high value on their services with all those who are able, and especially not unwilling, to make full return for the same.

When an effort is made, as it may be, to obtain a fair recorded return from the medical practitioners of Canada of the general condition of the public health, especially as relating to infectious or malarial diseases in their respective localities, hundreds will doubtless cheerfully respond to the calls of science and the public weal. Will they not all do so? Many earnest workers for the public good will hope so, and trust. When the work has been done for a time and the value of it has been manifested, proper representation of it to the Government and the people will doubtless bring the reward. The great majority of the masses of the people prefer to pay fair, full value for all or anything they receive from their fellow-men, although it may not be always easy to get them fully awak-