

I spoke of this, of one family in particular that I attended that lived in a sub-basement—I mentioned this before—where everything was bad. At a later date I was called to see this family and was surprised to hear they had moved to one of the new housing developments in our city. I went out and the change was, as I say, remarkable. The house was clean and the family was happy. The children had got out and tried to get jobs. They were going to school now. The father was making a better effort to watch his behaviour, which was before quite degrading, and they had some incentive to keep this place running.

With this family it just struck me, would it not be wonderful if you could move everybody out of these poor homes and put them in places like that, and they could all come alive.

Dr. Parlee: Yes, I am sure it is just one step.

Senator Hastings: But that is just one step.

Senator Hastings: There must have been other contributing factors.

Dr. Parlee: As I have said you could take all these things. You could go into education but this is just one step, I agree.

Senator Hastings: With regard to the change in environment, in another province I was talking to a father, 45 years old, with eight children. He was being encouraged to move to a centre of development, and the government would move him. I asked him "Are you going to move?", and he said, "No." I asked "Why?", and he said "Because if I went there I would have nothing." I said "Well, you have nothing here", and he said "Yes, but I would sooner be here and have nothing than there because I know where I am here."

I am asking you: Do you bodily move a man out of that environment where he is quite happy to be, and where he has grown up and where he knows he can exist?

Dr. Parlee: I do not know. I think it is just not the man. It is the wife and children who want this too. It just does not depend on him only.

Senator Hastings: By his answer he was used to this environment. He knew he could exist there and he just was not about to move. At the time it struck me that perhaps we would be damaging this man if we forced him to move.

Dr. Parlee: Yes, it is very possible.

The Chairman: Doctor, speaking of health, what are the out-patient facilities like in the city here?

Dr. Parlee: First of all we have one building that houses, I think, the clinics and this area is a new building which the people can attend and have excellent facilities in this clinic area.

Our Emergency area at the present time is being remodelled. Plans have been drawn for remodelling. I am talking about the General Hospital and we hope this will be underway very shortly. The facilities are good but we are crowded. By remodelling, we hope we will be able to remove most of the waste spaces.

The Chairman: Did you by any chance happen to read the brief of the Medical Association which was presented to this Committee?

Dr. Parlee: No.

The Chairman: It was a very good brief in which they made three observations, as I recall them. They said there was a lack of medical men in areas in Canada; out-patient departments were out-moded and needed renovation—some places have not been improved in 40 or 50 years and are totally inadequate—and hospitals were built for doctors not for patients.

These were the three observations. They were constructive observations and they were not hitting anybody. They were top men. Some of these observations apply here?

Dr. Parlee: To a certain extent, yes. Our government recently had appointed about a year ago the Lewellyn Weeks Commission to study the problem of the health needs of the Province of New Brunswick.

This brief is finished and it comprises two large volumes and it is being studied at the present time by medical personnel as well as the government and no doubt there will be a lot—at least I hope—some good things come out of this. Maybe it is not all good but at least good things, we hope, will come out of it.

We are told by members of the Department of Health they are stressing now ambulatory care, which is out-door facilities, and caring for convalescence at home.