

gist need the hygienist and the hygienist needs the economist and sociologist. They will meet and coöperate in The Human Welfare Group.

In one adjacent field this coöperation has already begun to bear fruit. An outstanding problem of public health today is the development of sound preventive medical service for all the people, of all classes, and in all areas; and the provision of such service on terms which will facilitate its use. The realization of this problem has led to the creation of a national Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, of which Secretary Ray Lyman Wilbur is chairman. The object of this committee is to discover by a coöperative study, in which physicians, hygienists, and economists take part, how the problem of medical care is being solved, what it costs, and what if anything should be done to improve the situation. This is precisely the sort of problem with which The Human Welfare Group is equipped to deal. It is not mere chance that both the medical school and the law school sections of our group are represented on the small executive committee of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care or that some of the most important projects of the Committee are being worked out in our laboratories.

Finally, The Human Welfare Group is vital to the department of public health because it enables us to get our subject into proper perspective as a part of the wider problem of government. In the United States, ancient Revolutionary tradition has tended to stereotype the concept of the state as an organ of irreducible police power, a sort of necessary evil, to be minimized as far as possible. I am all in favor of reduction rather than increase in the activity of the state as so conceived; but modern science and modern social developments have opened up untold possibilities of state service as distinct from state control. Aristotle says, "If all communities aim at some good, the state or political community, which is the highest of all, and which em-