

psyche when in a diseased condition; learning all the facts, not necessarily trying to label conditions, but rather estimating exactly the full significance of all symptoms; thus arriving at the basic features which will insure more valuable forecasts as to the probable outcome of cases already developed, a means of formulating a system of preventive medicine and the adoption of a more rational therapy.

RELATION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION TO THE PUBLIC.*

By JOHN W. S. McCULLOUGH, M.D., Alliston, Ont.

MR. PRESIDENT, Ladies and Gentlemen,—To me has fallen the honor of addressing you upon a branch of the relation of our profession to the public, under the general heading of Public Health Aspects—embracing: (1) The need of county officers of health; (2) Remuneration for registration of births, deaths and infectious diseases, and for attendance upon the poor; (3) Compulsory vaccination; (4) Protective organization.

This is an extensive list of subjects, and feeling my utter inability, even if the time allotted to me were much greater, to deal adequately with them, I have merely outlined the various matters, leaving it for you to supply in your discussion the very great deal which may be said regarding these important subjects.

Taking the first topic, that of the need in this Province of County Officers of Health. You all know very well that under the present system, there being a health officer in each municipality, or, at least, that the law provides for such, the regulations regarding health matters are often very poorly carried out.

The reason is not far to seek. A physician is appointed to this office. He receives either no salary, or, if any, a mere trifle. He may be zealous to carry out his duties, but receives no encouragement or support from the Board of Health or the authorities of the municipality, consequently he soon becomes tired of flying in the face of the public, whose good opinion is necessary to his success or existence. As a result, he floats with the stream and the health regulations become a dead letter.

The Provincial Board of Health has had in the past five or six years a great deal of trouble with some infectious diseases, notably mild epidemics of smallpox here and there. It has been found that in many, perhaps the majority of municipalities, very little attention was paid to the necessary quarantine, and that both the Province and the municipality concerned have been put to an unnecessary expense and trouble because

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