

lars required by this section, will not relieve the physician from the penalty imposed for default.

Not only are physicians required to report all cases of disease which they *know* to be of an infectious nature and dangerous to the public health, but if they *suspect* that a patient whom they are attending is infected with scarlet fever, the special regulations regarding this disease, issued by the Provincial Board of Health under authority conferred on it by the Act, and which before issue have been confirmed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, require that they give similar notice to the health authorities. They are not to wait until such a time that there can be no dispute in the diagnosis, but must give the notice within twenty-four hours of the time their suspicions are aroused. Should they suspect that a patient is infected with diphtheria, the regulations do not require the immediate notice, but the physician must isolate the patient at once, until a bacteriological examination of swabs taken from the throat proves the *absence* of that disease. The services of the bacteriologist of the Provincial Board of Health are free to all medical practitioners for the examination of swabs taken from the throats of suspected cases, and in the same way when recovery seems complete. They are also available for the examination of samples of sputum to ascertain whether B. T. is present.

It is not to be supposed that when the attending physician notifies the M. H. O. of a case of contagious disease that he therefore transfers his responsibility for attendance to the M. H. O. Unless properly discharged by the patient, or he notifies the patient that he will no longer attend, he is still the physician in charge. The M. H. O. is only required to have knowledge of the case that he may see that the regulations are carried out.

Should the physician who gives proper notice to the authorities of cases of contagious disease receive compensation therefore from the state or from the municipality? It has been argued that, because physicians received no such compensation, the penal clauses of the Act are of no effect. That under the law of contract a particular service cannot be compelled unless compensation is made for that service. Whether this argument will hold good in law is a question. It may be noted that since the Legislature provided that Division Registrars of vital statistics should receive a fee of twenty cents for each birth, marriage, or death reported to them, the returns of those statistics have become much more complete than was previously the case. Is it not reasonable to assume that were physicians paid a small fee by the municipality for each notice of contagious disease (and for each birth and death) re-