

the medical care and attention are perhaps not so good as those which he would receive had he belonged to the party in control.

Mr. MAYBANK: Do they not all belong to one party?

Mr. POWER: No; apparently they do not. Apparently even within that country only a small minority of the inhabitants belong to the party in power. But they have gone about their institution of state medicine in a manner that will perhaps appeal to a great many of us. They have more than any other country institutionalized treatment. Domiciliary visits and care are almost done away with. Patients of all kinds and all classes are brought to the state clinics and the state dispensaries. Maternal care is given almost entirely in hospitals. Infectious and communicable diseases must be reported and hospitalized under very heavy penalties. Every effort is being made to bring those whose health is not absolutely perfect under the control of some institution or another. Doctors are all in the pay of the state, with perhaps the exception of those who look after foreigners visiting the country, and perhaps a few who are allowed to give consultations and receive fees. Hospitals are all free, with the exception perhaps of the abortoria, which are considered to be luxuries.

When the revolution broke out and it was decided to organize state medicine on its present basis, they proceeded by way of intensive propaganda among all classes of the state. They impressed the citizens of Russia with the idea that it was a patriotic duty to bring about cleanliness, sanitation and good health. Typhus was a foe to be combatted almost as much as the armed foes on the borders of the state. By means of this propaganda I think it can be established that a great deal was accomplished along the lines of sanitation, cleanliness and health. Lenin himself is reported to have said, "Either socialism will defeat the louse or the louse will defeat socialism." Apparently the louse was conquered.

Doctors are all on state wages. They are obliged to go to the section of the country to which they are ordered. If they do their work well, they may get an increase in salary, and if they do it badly, the least that can happen to them is that they will get a decrease in salary.

In bringing about these reforms they were faced with the problem of having very few doctors. A great many of them, on account possibly of their circumstances and perhaps of their political affiliations or sympathies, were either sent into exile or liquidated, so that when

the commissariat of health was established in 1918, it was necessary to proceed to the formation of a corps of doctors. This was done by taking from among the ranks of the working men or their children those whom they considered best qualified to become physicians. They were trained in the state training colleges and universities, paid a wage during the time of their training, and sent out to do the work which could be allotted to them.

I think there is this to be said in favour of the system, that if it works—and it does on paper—it will certainly correct a condition which we have in this country, and which certainly requires some improvement. There will be a better distribution of medical men throughout the country. There can be no question that one of our difficulties from the standpoint of health is the almost impossibility of getting a young medical graduate to go out and establish himself in the remoter districts where the chances of obtaining a livelihood are difficult, but where he is sure of one thing, hard work, and very little return for it. The soviet union is endeavouring to correct such maladjustments as that. It is endeavouring to provide also for convalescence, and for nurses. It is endeavouring to bring to its people the realization that health is one of the most important things for it to look after.

I have laboured this Russian experiment because I imagine that is the goal which is being sought by all or most of those who are asking us to institute state medicine in this country. After all, if what we read to-day is all true, it would be an ideal kind of state medicine.

I forgot to mention a moment ago that the costs of their system of state medicine are taken not out of what would be equivalent in Russia to our consolidated revenue or out of any central fund, but out of the costs of industry, all industries, of course, being managed and operated by the state. It is simply that much more money added to the payroll; it works out that in each locality or each industry a certain amount is added to the cost of the operation of the industry, and that amount goes to pay the cost of state medicine. It is almost impossible, I believe, to get any exact figures; but Sir Arthur News-holme and John Adams Kingsbury, who wrote the book entitled *Red Medicine*, figure it out at something like eighteen per cent of the cost of the payroll. Professor Sigerist, who wrote from a different viewpoint, figures it out at about six per cent of the cost.