

interests of the medical profession or the practice of surgery, or in the interests of the advances made by that great university in years past.

I do not rise for the purpose of preventing the passage of the Prime Minister's bill. On the contrary I commend it, so far as it goes. I believe that if money is well spent liberally there may be some good effect in the country. I have noticed that in the past thirty years health departments in municipalities have dealt with these problems. I believe that if we can get agreement with the provinces whereby the jurisdiction might be made concurrent, hundreds of millions of dollars might be spent federally in the five years following the war. That money could be spent on national housing, national hospitalization, and a national scheme in connection with science, and particularly that branch of science in medicine about which I have been speaking. And I would draw particular attention to the rapid strides made by medicine, as indicated by McNeil Dixon.

Mr. F. W. GERSHAW (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, in making a few remarks in connection with the setting up of the Department of National Health and Welfare I wish to say, first of all, that my observation and experience is that the medical doctors of this country are only too anxious to grasp any new treatment that can be discovered. They would welcome with open arms any treatment which even in a small way would lessen the ravages of cancer. They have grasped the liver treatment for anaemia, the insulin treatment for diabetes, the sulpha drugs for numerous infections, and penicillin, where applicable. All they want is an assurance from some research body with respect to the safety of action in connection with new methods of treatment. These things can be obtained, and these problems can be worked out only in a national research body.

After the evidence given to-day by the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Leader), I believe that various research bodies should again be approached, and that some real interest should be taken in probing this matter to its depths. Other cancer cures have been probed, and we have always hoped that one would be found which would really help to destroy this great scourge.

During the lifetime of this parliament and the term of office of this government, many important social security measures have been taken. We have a long list of labour legislation placed on the statute books. We have pensions, bonuses and grants. We have The Unemployment Insurance Act. We have health insurance, and we know of the efforts

[Mr. Church.]

made by the nutritional council to make generally known the advantages of proper diet, proper foods, and the preparation of foods. The provinces have mothers' allowances and workmen's compensation acts. Now we are to have family allowances, which will be a great blessing to many people.

There is one problem, however, which has not yet been touched, and I refer to help for those who are disabled. If a man is disabled while working under a compensation act, he can get some means of living. But if he is not under a compensation act, and suffers some injury or is sick, he may find himself in a very bad situation. None of the new measures seems to give any relief in that respect.

I wish to emphasize one feature in connection with social security which has not yet been stressed, namely, that in my opinion individuals and nations will have to return to the observance of the cardinal virtues. Those virtues were called cardinal because the whole structure of our economic system hinges upon them. I believe that there will never be contentment until those virtues are restored to their old-time position.

One of the first speeches I heard in the House of Commons was during the hectic session of 1926. I can still remember the late Mr. Forke saying in effect that a man who has not contentment in his breast may be great, or rich, or wise, but never can be blessed.

We are at present engaged in a colossal conflict of arms, when war has upset the whole progress of the world and plunged it into misery and bloodshed. Why? I would say that this has happened because one nation turned its back upon those cardinal virtues. Hitler substituted the swastika for the cross and "Mein Kampf" for the Bible, disregarded the lessons of history and failed to recognize enduring truths. He even boasted that he would tear up Christianity, root, stem and branch. Instead of teaching his people humility, he taught them that they were a superior people. Instead of observing the second commandment he inflicted punishment and cruelty upon the German people and upon others, which nothing can ever excuse.

I bring up these points because I believe that a condition of affairs spoken of in the Psalms has arisen, where it is said that the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. We must approach the problems of social security in the light of knowledge gained in the past, and the experience of these tragic years.

At six o'clock the house took recess.