

dation and nursing under present conditions, but the fault lies with the other developments of modern practice more than with the doctor.

It is well known that no body of citizens has labored so unremittingly for the promotion of preventive medicine and the public health, regardless of their own financial detriment. The medical profession also has borne without complaint the burden of attendance on the indigent sick, and too frequently as well, on impostors, who pass as such in order to escape their financial obligations. We may justly claim that mercenary motives have always discredited a man in the eyes of his professional colleagues, and that he who would make the acquirement of gain the chief object of his calling would be well advised to seek another field for his labors.

In no class of illness is the financial hardship so apparent as in the management of nervous and borderland psychopathic cases, in which the usual prolonged duration, the necessity for constant attendance of nurses and the procuring of suitable accommodation, often tax the resources of the family to the utmost degree. I believe that general experience warrants the statement that one of the most urgent needs in the province at the present time is the provision by the Government of suitable accommodation at a moderate price for the proper control and treatment of borderland nervous cases, incipient or temporary insanity, inebriates and drug habitues.

The complaint is heard occasionally among our more prosperous citizens that, like the butcher and baker, the doctor should charge the same fees to rich and poor, but if they would recall the fact that the poor to a considerable extent receive free treatment, the impossibility of adopting such a rule would be obvious.

I hope I may now be pardoned for referring to something more in the nature of a family affair, viz., the disproportion between the remuneration of the surgeon and specialist as compared with the physician and general practitioner. This is freely admitted by all, and the opinion was embodied in a report adopted by the Ontario Medical Association a few years ago. This disparity is undoubtedly one of the causes underlying the pernicious custom of fee-splitting, by which less scrupulous members of the profession arrange a secret adjustment of the difficulty—a practice we believe never very common in this province, and of which happily even less is heard in recent years.

There seems no good reason why the present inequality should continue. The basis for remuneration of physician or