

To my medical *confrères* it is unnecessary to dilate further on the sum total of benefaction that might ensue from State (in addition to voluntary) measures directed systematically and ceaselessly against alcoholism, lunacy, syphilis, tuberculosis, infant mortality and other visitations, or by assisting the scientific research of cancer and other diseases from State as well as private resources.

Lastly, it has been said that nothing has been brought forward to prove that it is desirable to detach sanitary administration from other departments of local government.

It must not be concluded that because a separate central Office of Health is established, that local sanitary administration would therefore be disconnected from other local work. It is to be remarked that a Sanitary Authority has nevertheless a complete title and existence, such as are not to be found apparently in the central Sanitary Authority of the Empire; that, speaking in a relative sense only, urban and rural sanitary authorities possess more marked identity than the State Medical Department.

The Appointment of a British Minister of Education has been coincident with the handing over of local administration of education to the local governing bodies; at a time, therefore, when correlation was taking the place of previous separation. No jot of evidence can be brought forward from this undoubted advance in education to prove that there should not be such a Minister, and that the appointment was not entirely for the best.

It may be fairly be claimed that the real effect of the appointment of a Minister on local sanitary authorities would be to add weight to the recommendations of these bodies if in accordance with sanitary requirements, and would render them more generally effective; the Minister would initiate and promote their sanitary progress, if necessary; would lend assistance to those in need of help; would stimulate those who were apathetic or indifferent to the public duties which they had assumed and the legislative trusts they were responsible for; would remove such shackles as unduly bound them; and would be compelling to those who wilfully neglect their duty. The central authority would not needlessly interfere with local matters in any way; for in our system of local government the principle is assumed that what ought to be done for local interests should be done by local bodies, with certain limitations. But it is not to be assumed that local authority extends to the omission of advantages gained by science and civilization—which may