

some are as backward as most countries were fifty years ago, whilst others have made very good progress and are just as far advanced as any other community to be found anywhere. When, however, we study the conditions in the most advanced sections we find very deplorable conditions existing, and we must come to the conclusion that we have a long road to travel to educate the populace and legislate in the interests of public health and that political action is required to deal intelligently with these economic and social problems.

Is it not as vital to consider the question of public health as important as that of any other human interest? In reality it is so high that all other problems are dwarfed in comparison.

Millions of human beings exist in all nations, feeble, dull, ignorant, through adverse conditions, and many nations have perished because of similar causes, and others are perishing today because we fail to perceive the situation which confronts us at the present time. The unnecessary and alarming high death rate, our insane asylums overflowing and the increasing numbers of the mentally unbalanced not in asylums, the many persons mentally and physically diseased through no fault of their own, but through the fault of the state.

The Coming Generation Should Be Well Born.

The most important duty is to ensure that the coming generation shall be well-born—to have the opportunity to live long and contentedly through a knowledge of the laws of health and under proper conditions, so that man may realize and appreciate all the attributes of divine love in his fellow-man and be in rapport with the cosmic laws of the universe as he realizes the Divine Creator in all things, so that he becomes free in the exercise of his nobler faculties without any restraint in the performance of his duty and service to himself, his family, his fellow-man, the state, and to God.

How long will our people stand for the existing conditions under which the rich are becoming richer, the poor poorer and the nation becomes submerged in false ideals of life with all its miseries, whilst our politicians are throwing mud at each other and are juggling with minor affairs instead of

legislating for the greatest good. England's greatest statesman prophesied "M.D.'s are to become the rulers of the nations, the anctores sapientias maxime," and I have no hesitancy in stating that the time certainly will come when that prophecy will be fulfilled.

The medical profession has made most wonderful progress in the past hundred years, and we have every reason to believe that had this not been the case there would undoubtedly be quite a number who are present at this meeting to-day that would not be present for they would have succumbed to various diseases—or would not have been born. The general public realizes but little what they owe to medical and surgical science.

When we look back to the time when cholera swept this part of the country the times were awful. We have nothing to fear now from that disease simply because our public health services in Canada and the U. S. are able to prevent its entrance into the country.

Smallpox Killed 500,000 People Annually in Europe.

Years ago malaria was prevalent in certain sections but we have hardly any now. Yellow fever, that great scourge of the Southern States and Panama, has disappeared. Let us look for a moment at the history of the Panama Canal. When first its construction was contemplated by the French it was a failure on account of the yellow fever. When the Americans took hold of the project they first attacked the yellow fever by getting rid of the mosquitoes, and to-day the country around Panama is as healthy as any that can be found.

Diphtheria used to be a terrible disease, but now it is preventable and amenable to treatment.

Prior to the days of vaccination smallpox was a terrible plague. Of all the pestilences that afflict mankind, smallpox has by far the worst record as a destroyer. Not much more than a century ago it was reckoned that one-fourth of the human race bore in blindness or disfigurement traces of attack by this fearful plague, which at times wiped out whole communities.

The malady was so common that those who escaped it were considered