

That the results, as exemplified by improved administration, will fully compensate for all expenditure of capital and energy, I do not for one minute doubt.

In connexion with my second criticism, viz., that we do not sufficiently impress our students with their relations and responsibilities to the public service, I shall, before taking my seat, address a few remarks to the senior class. At the end of the academic year just beginning you leave your Alma Mater as qualified doctors of medicine. You will then pass successfully through the ordeal of an examination by your Provincial Board and be licensed to practice.

I suspect, in so far as most of you are concerned, you will by that time regard yourselves as entirely independent, free to pursue your own courses, with responsibilities to only yourselves and your patients. This is the point on which I wish to set you straight. When you are granted your license, your name and address will be officially recorded at an appropriate bureau, and, whether you wish it or not, you become from that moment a part of the public health administration of the district. Your central and local governments, knowing that you will be in possession of facts vital to the correct estimation of the movements of population, press you into service. They request you to furnish regularly and promptly an account of all births and deaths occurring in your practice. It considers knowledge that will be possessed by you of such fundamental significance to the correct administration of preventive measures, that it looks to you to communicate with utmost promptitude a full account of all dangerous, transmissible diseases brought to your notice. If you are a good citizen, concerned for the welfare of the community of which you form a part, your duties in these respects will be performed with intelligence, willingness and despatch. If you are not, they will be performed just the same, but under legal compulsion.

Now, let us spend a moment upon the reasons for these requests, for I have observed that willing service is more often obtained from those acquainted with reasons for the requests than from those ignorant thereof. The ultimate object of state medicine is preventive, i.e., its function is to lessen sickness and prevent deaths by improving the conditions under which the people live. The progress of this effort is measured by the degree of improvement in the public health, as shown by the general vital statistics of the locality. You are to supply the data from which these statistics are compiled.

Upon special features of the work, as, for instance, in the checking of epidemics or the detection of local conditions that predispose to disease, special information is needed; you are asked therefore to supply