

coadjutors not as fellow workers in a great cause, but as servile instruments necessary, it may be, for the commercial success of the undertaking, but otherwise unworthy of consideration," one is forced to wonder upon what process of reasoning such a remarkable generalization is justified. This paragraph reminds one more of the "lurid" appeal of a yellow journal to a constituency incapable of judgment than the utterance of a sane medical journal to intelligent readers. Those who know the members of the National Sanatorium Association Board, as earnest, public-spirited citizens and

philanthropists, who have given freely of their time and money to promote the interests of the greatest work of the kind in our country, are not likely to be misled by such criticism.

Human judgment and action at best are not unerring; mistakes will occur, and men may differ, but those most closely in touch and best informed with regard to the National Sanatorium and its work must deeply deplore any attack, especially from a medical quarter, which might tend to prejudice the public against an institution so deserving of confidence and support.

INTER ALIA

A convention will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, this month and attended by 500 distinguished physicians and savants from all parts of the world who will take up the problem of noise. Dr. Blake, professor of otology at the Harvard Medical School, in discussing the programme for the proposed meeting, says that modern conditions of life in the cities are seriously affecting the hearing. The ear is becoming abnormal and blunted. In the effort at excluding the din of the city the sensitive mechanism of hearing is thickening. The roar and distraction of the city is almost imperceptibly working upon the nerves of the people as well as making them deaf. Scientists, therefore, propose to see what can be done toward relieving humanity of the present useless strain.

Dr. Blake points out that noise is largely an indication of waste energy, just as is the heating of a bearing in a machine. Furthermore, it is barbarous because much of it is unnecessary. There is not any doubt in the minds of laymen even that noise has an important effect upon nervous people and those who are ill. It also has its effect, although not so evident, on those who are robust and apparently immune. The truth has been recognized in the organization of societies for the suppression of unnecessary noise, in ordinances against bell ringing, whistling of locomotives and other forms of needless disturbance within city limits. And while some progress has been made there is much more to be done.

The doctors who will assemble in this convention should be able to start a campaign of publicity that will result in eliminating much of the annoyance of city living at present. The main thing to be done at the outset is to arouse public opinion on the subject. The people should be made to appreciate the consequences of unnecessary noise; to realize that it is an imposition on them and all others; and to know that they have the remedy in their own hands. It is not to be expected that all noise can be banished, but there is an immense volume of nerve-racking sound that can and should be stopped.

Canada's gain is a serious loss to the Minnesota State Board of Health in the acceptance by Dr. H. W. Hill of the directorship of the Institute of Public Health at London, Ontario. Dr. Hill's work as director of the Division of Epidemiology of the Minnesota Department of Health, is well-known to the readers of *The Public Health Journal*, work which, in addition to other important undertakings since his graduation as Bachelor of Medicine in the University of Toronto, in 1893, was recognized last year by his Alma Mater conferring upon him, as the first among her graduates, the degree of Doctor of Public Health. Dr. Hill is a versatile writer, an excellent speaker, and a most welcome acquisition to the active membership of the Canadian Public Health Association.