

arily responsible for perfecting and making effective the proposed organization.

I have referred at some length to this matter, for the purpose of strongly urging the formation of a local society affiliated with the Provincial Association in every county or district in the Province, and for the purpose also of strongly urging upon every medical man in this Province, and especially of the members of the profession in the smaller villages, and country districts an active interest in, and attendance on the meetings of the local societies. The local societies are the essential foundation stones upon which the larger organizations are built and are therefore vital to the whole scheme.

We are sometimes told by physicians as a reason for non-attendance at medical meetings, that they are too busy to go from home, or that an important case has claimed their attention; but these excuses are sometimes entirely valid, and yet it is a matter of constant observation that it is the really busy, and influential, and interested men who continually find time to attend the meetings of the local and other medical associations. I can think of no greater honor than for a medical man to be elected by his fellow practitioners as a member of the Committee of General Purposes of the Ontario Medical Association.

It is only by a perfected organization that we can hope to exercise that influence in matters coming within the legitimate sphere of our work, which we as physicians and enlightened citizens, are entitled to exercise.

If a better organization has been needed in the past, much more is it needed at the present time; we are living in very important days, no great upheaval like the present war can possibly leave the world as it found it; eyes are opened, forces are unchained, which are bound to change the face of the future. If the signs fail not we are now standing upon the very threshold of a great democratic and socialistic movement, world wide in its sweep and which may shake the very foundations of our present social and industrial structure. Physicians, from the very nature of their touch with the great masses of men, must regard such a movement with sympathy and with a desire to help. Great wisdom and restraint may be needed if such a movement is to prove an unmixed blessing. Under such circumstances, I know of no class of men capable of exercising a more salutary influence than are the general practitioners of medicine in this or any other country. In the homes of the people, in their hours of greatest domestic felicity and exaltation, with them also in the time of greatest domestic grief and bereavement, they easily pass into a special class of trusted friends, and advisers the power of whose influence, no man may measure. Let us see to it that our influ-