

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

In the past fifty years the socialization of medicine has paralleled the centralization of commerce and the organization of labour. It is no longer possible for the individual physician to maintain the isolation and the arbitrary powers and responsibilities which were his in primitive times. The advance of both the art and the science of medicine has compelled the development of partnerships and group practice, in which the knowledge of one man supplements the lacks of another, to the advantage of the sick for whom and upon whom they work. As this idea of co-operative effort develops within medicine itself, a new form of relationship in the maintenance of human welfare appears upon the horizon. A partnership between intelligent and well informed public opinion and the physician as leader is the logical ultimate expression of the trend of the times. Medicine is beset with problems whose solution is impossible except by the widest co-operation and the broadest understanding imaginable. The physician as a leader acting alone is helpless. It was said of the Roman legion that its tremendous effectiveness as against the phalanx was due to the fact that every man in it was an accomplished warrior who could, if alone, give admirable account of himself. To make every intelligent man, woman and child a legionary in the organization of the public health, some of the knowledge so long sedulously kept as the property of the profession of medicine must be imparted to the rank and file.

One by one the greatest scourges of the race are succumbing to this new strategic method. Malaria and yellow fever are giving way not alone before the advance of medical knowledge, but also before the popularizing of that knowledge which makes every-day people intelligent co-operators in the campaign. Tuberculosis mortality is falling, not alone because of new conceptions in its treatment, but because of the tremendous force of public knowledge and sentiment. In time the same fate will await cancer, syphilis and gonorrhœa.

Syphilis and gonorrhœa perhaps more than any other of the great plagues which scourge humanity, need the new strategic method. Medically we are armed to the teeth against them. All the paraphernalia of battle is at hand. Against these two diseases we can move with irresistible force on the dawn of the day of human enlightenment. That dawn is very near. Once we can open the eyes of the every-day man and woman to see the enemy as he is, his course is run.