

Nationalization of the Medical Profession

The writer of the article which follows, Ex-Mayor Dr. J. E. Hett of Kitchener, is well known throughout the Province of Ontario for his warm sympathy for the cause of organized labor. He is a well-known figure at the succeeding conventions of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario and the Independent Labor Party, and for years has been actively connected with the industrial and political activities of labor in his native city. He was born in Kitchener on May 2, 1870, and graduated from the University of Toronto on May 2, 1891, on his 21st birthday. The doctor knows what it means to be without money, as he spent many of his student days in Toronto without a nickel in his pocket. He never attended the full courses of lectures at college, as he worked for part of the time and during the holidays at the carpenter trade. He has been secretary of the local Medical Association for over a quarter of a century and has contributed numerous articles to medical literature. He was the first in the world to treat and report a case of uterine fibroid by X-ray, which was a complete success. He is engaged in work on cancer for some time. Dr. Hett's interest in the labor movement has been known by nearly all the old labor leaders for over twenty-five years. He is on the executive of the Labor Educational Association and a vice-president of the I.L.P.

He speaks four languages—English, German, French and Italian—and for several years served on the local Board of Education. His article on the Nationalization of the Medical Profession shows a great deal of original thought, and he claims that if the medical profession is nationalized completely that sickness and suffering will be reduced over 50 per cent. and thousands of lives saved, whilst at the same time the highest type of citizens will be developed.

The Eradication of Misery and Disease.

To the Labor Educational Association:

Ladies and Gentlemen: One year ago to-day, May 24th, 1919, in the city of Stratford at our annual meeting you intrusted me with the task of giving a report upon this vital question. Consequently I am here to-day and beg to submit the following report for your consideration.

In the contemplation of this great question it is necessary for us to lay aside every selfish motive and allow our hearts to be filled with the greatest ideals of life in the endeavor to make a correct diagnosis of the physical, mental and spiritual conditions of our people and those who are to be born and applying physical and mental hygiene, together with all the medical and surgical knowledge and application of the same for the purpose of eradicating misery and disease, with all its terrible sufferings and bringing about happiness and health to our civilization in its highest form.

It would be exceedingly interesting to present to you a synopsis of the evolution of public health, but those thoughts can be obtained from other sources. Time brings about many changes. The world is in a great upheaval, and many conditions are in a chaotic state. What does this all mean? People are beginning to think as they never did before. The conditions are such that all communities and countries are influenced by the various thoughts, discoveries, conventions and scientific progress of the age.

The Conserving of the Public Health Is a Vital Problem.

When we study the evolution of public health in Canada and study the statistics we find that some communities vary greatly in health matters and