

Here lies a large mission-field for our profession. We must teach the people that wrong, and wrong only, can come to them from such unintelligent use of medicine. We must appeal to the manhood of the capitalist that it is in the last degree dishonorable for him to try to make large gains by thus committing a fraud on the sick. And eventually we must strive to secure such legislation as will mark the man a criminal who uses such means to sell drugs.

Before such a legislation can be secured, or even if secured, before it could be enforced, the public must receive a very considerable degree of education from the medical profession. To accomplish this end every medical man must look upon himself as a missionary in the cause of science and truth. He will require to direct his efforts to enlighten the people as to the properties of the various drugs in common use, the nature of the common diseases, their causes, and that there is no dark secret as to the methods by which he endeavors to cure them. He must show that he is a constant student and a close observer. It must be quite easily seen by the people that the saving of life and the curing of the sick are more dear to his heart than are the shekels that should come to him as a reward of his honest labor. By such a course the influence of every medical man will grow upon the people.

The masses of the people even at this day are deplorably ignorant so far as anything relating to disease is concerned. They know nothing beyond the worse than useless things they read in the newspapers, and quack advertisements. Many men are woefully ignorant in medical matters, in the knowledge of disease and its treatment, who are in other matters fairly intelligent. Clergymen, lawyers and successful business men are often the dupes of the veriest quackery. If the mission of the medical man was fully accomplished these things ought not to be so.

I referred to the semi-religious, "pray-for-hire-healers," known as Christian Scientists and allied to them are the Dowieites. Thus far the medical profession has treated these people with ridicule or ignored them entirely. If they confined their efforts to the unfortunates who imagine they have ailments they have not, we could well afford to continue thus to treat them. But when we find them impudently undertaking to treat infectious diseases, such as diphtheria, scarlet fever and small-pox, diseases which they are unable to recognize, we think we have come to a point where toleration and forbearance become criminal. We have a right to insist, in order to protect the people from the spread of these diseases, that no man or woman shall be allowed to treat disease, by any means whatever, who has not had the training necessary to enable him to know the character of the disease he undertakes to treat. These people deny that disease exists and, of course, do not report to the proper officers any case of infection. They go in and out amongst the infected and allow others to do the same; thus criminally and at variance with all health regulations, they are doing all they can to spread these infections.

Surely it is time the 2,500 medical men in Ontario raised their voices and used all their influence to obtain from the Legislature such an amendment to the Medical Act as will put an end to this trifling with human life. Medical men are now compelled under a penalty to report