

ties we must use the talent we possess, but, if we are to lead and mould public opinion we must be provided with the means to require the knowledge necessary to make the Health Officer something more than a bureau for collecting statistics.

Medical schools in Canada and the United States give a nominal course in Hygiene called by courtesy, State Medicine, but falls short of conveying the technical knowledge or even the rhetorical instruction which would fit a student to assume the duties of a Medical Health Officer. When I saw it announced that the Ministry contemplated the addition of another Minister to the Cabinet a day dream recurred to me to which I had given expression at St. Thomas nearly six years ago, when the first Sanitary Convention was held there.

I then expressed the hope that the day was not far distant when a Minister with a portfolio of Public Health would take rank with other members of the Government, and such appropriation of money be made as would secure the services of the most intelligent men in the country, through whose efforts, preventable diseases and the mortality caused by them would be reduced to a minimum. Although agriculture and statistics are most important factors in the management of a country, public health, as will be clearly demonstrated by my friend Dr. Burrows and others, has a financial as well as a humanitarian side to it. If the whole attention of the Minister could not be given to it, the Government might see their way to the establishment of a Health Department under this Minister, that an efficient deputy with a permanent staff could lay the foundation of a technical and experimental school, a school provided with a laboratory where applied chemistry would be adapted to sanitary work, where instructions in the use of the microscope in making examination of specimens of water, milk and other articles of food could be given to those who desired to learn, where practical sanitary engineering and a thorough acquaintance with drainage and the modern methods of plumbing could be systematically taught, where instructions in the latest and most approved methods of heating and ventilation could be given, wherein the sanitarian *de nomine* would be transformed into the sanitarian *de facto*.

From such a school the country would be supplied with Health Officers who would not pedantically assert theories, but, having learned the methods

of scientific investigation, would be prepared to do intelligent work.

These are ideas suggested in the performance of every-day health work, from a feeling of the necessity of a more extended knowledge in order to cope successfully with questions of daily occurrence, and I think that I express the wishes of a very large proportion of Medical Health Officers, as well as a very general desire on the part of the public at large, that means for improvement be placed within our reach.

If further argument were necessary I would point to other countries which have taken steps to accomplish a higher order of scientific investigation. The scope of this paper will not admit of detail, but I would point to the following countries which have appropriated large sums of money for the advancement of health work. Commencing with our nearest neighbor on the west, the State of Michigan, an institute of Hygiene has been established at a cost of \$35,000. Other states of the Union are introducing plans for similar action. In Europe, we have Sweden with a school for technical sanitary teaching, costing 20,000 francs. England, France, Russia, Hungary, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Italy and Spain have all Institutions of State Medicine, supported and, in some instances, liberally endowed from the public purse.

Ontario, as far as sanitary legislation goes, is in the front rank among the nations of the earth. Why not keep abreast with the times in the matter of scientific investigation and teaching? This step once taken it would be in order to adopt a curriculum for Medical Health Officers, to define in detail the work they shall perform. They might be classified and paid according to their qualifications, or on a basis of population. Some of the suggestions are intended for reflection more than for present action, but as the representatives of public health, we must be prepared for the progressive evolution which is going on throughout the world in the economics of human health, happiness and existence. As the bill of fare covers a very large area of health work. I do not wish to anticipate the conclusions of the committee at this stage of the proceedings by making too many suggestions, but I cannot help availing myself of the opportunity of urging upon your notice a few points which I think are worthy of your consideration.