

tary and other matters, it is sincerely hoped. Over-centralization is justly to be condemned, and the central authority that would attempt to interpose and *enforce unduly* even the wisest of rules on the community would not be tolerated. But no greater spur or incentive to the proper sanitary progress of local authorities could be devised; nothing could be better calculated to promote the best interests of all departments than a trained chief with adequate powers. It is true that the fulfilment of our expectations would depend partly on the personality of the Minister, but in the long run our hopes would be realized.

In the recent debate on the appointment of a Minister of Commerce in the House of Commons at Westminster it was brought forward as opposing arguments that we have four times as many Ministers as other countries, that our Cabinet is three times as large as any other Cabinet, and that our number of paid Ministers was about five times as numerous as the paid Ministers of other people. I am unable to criticize the accuracy of all these statements, but I cannot accept them as proving generally the inadvisability of further appointments. Seriously speaking, that such a number of Ministers has been found requisite and necessary in the order of things is to my mind an argument in favor of the appointment I advocate. If the appointment of a Minister of Commerce is described as of *vital* importance, the functions of a Minister of Health, on whom life may be said to depend, are yet more truly of vital importance.

Again, I am asked if existing arrangements are really insufficient? To this I would answer by another question. "Are the infectious and preventable diseases, the filth diseases, the industrial diseases, the infant mortality, etc., diminishing universally and in proportion to our knowledge of the potentiality for decrease? Are investigations as to the causes and prevention of lunacy and cancer being duly promoted by state means? Do the annual reports clearly set forth to the country the need for further measures of personal inquiry and direct medical supervision?" In fact, are state arrangements commensurate with the proper share of the efforts which should be made to prevent "wastage" of life? The success of nations or individuals is a hollow one, if the penalty is exacted in disease of body and mind, with the poverty, misery and suffering entailed in it.

Then the objection is raised that such an official would entail increased taxation; and perhaps, on the surface, the matter of cost may appear of some, even of great, antagonistic weight.

The yearly expenditure of English departments is certainly