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### AUTOMOBILE KILLS MILLION DOLLAR CHILD



VINSON WALSH McLEAN

Vinson Walsh McLean, nine years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. McLean, famous the country over not long ago as the "Million Dollar Baby," died from injuries received when he was struck by an automobile near the McLean country place, Friendship, in Washington. Vinson Walsh, for whom he was named, was killed in an automobile accident in Newport a few years ago.

very ugly readings to the outside world, and appeal to every heart that was not made of stone or selfishness. This spring we had to walk to the west coast, to get out, because there was no chance at St. Anthony, though we had waited and tried for eight weeks. One of my cases on the way was a young Newfoundland soldier. He had served throughout the war and had just returned. A gun, accidentally discharged, shot away the calf of his leg, cutting the two main arteries. He was dying rapidly when I reached him. He had no access, would have been rushed across the straits with a tourniquet on to Sister Bailey's Cottage Hospital at Forteau. Even now unless skilled nursing is available he will die of sepsis. Fortunately it is, and this brave lad had a fighting chance, and his broken hearted parents will vote for "Bay Hospitals."

In this short and hurried journey I treated seven "rickety" children. These would have grown up to be inefficient burdens to themselves and the colony. Rickets, scurvy, beri-beri and other common and terribly exacting diseases are all diseases of ignorance. If in reach of a nursing cottage hospital or a bay hospital they would not exist.

#### ELECTORS REALIZE NECESSITY

The electors have learned from St. Anthony that Bay Hospitals are feasible, can be efficient and can be supported. If not, why are there now patients from St. John's, Green Bay, White Bay and the south western coast in our Bay Hospital at St. Anthony? They realize the value of a well equipped nursing unit like Forteau, or why are there always patients there? If anyone had known what it meant to rear a family with the consciousness that such help was out of reach in case of need he would realize that a large part of the worry of life is carried on that account, and you can count on his vote for Bay Hospitals. If any member of the Government or any voter visits St. Anthony Hospital to-day, studies its records and methods which an experience of twenty years has given it, or visits Forteau Nursing Cottage Hospital and studies its possibilities and then considers the question of its finances, he could not help going back convinced that a very serious responsibility lies at the doors, not only of those who can make these requirements of civilization possible in Newfoundland, but also at the doors of those who do not "do their best" to see that they are put on a basis that will not cripple their efficiency by any political, denominational or unscientific control. I hope to visit St. John's shortly and would be glad to meet any persons interested in this problem, and to whom the experiences of twenty seven years experimenting in outport district work would afford any information or suggestions that would be of value.

**THE DEVOTED NURSES**  
 There is, however, one other aspect of this problem which is serious and which must be discussed. It is the financial side and that of the nurse. In our experience the most important factor in winning back a sufferer to life and health is the nurse. No one who has practised among the poor, the uneducated or the isolated but is well aware of that fact. Not the casual visit of us doctors, but the faithful, devoted and continuous service of the trained nurse is what turns the scale in favor of life. If I were not a sur-

geon I would ask for no other role in life before that of a district nurse like that of the late heroic Nurse Dickenson. The capacity of women is no longer in question. Side by side with men in universities and colleges they have demonstrated their equality if not their superiority in mental ability. In factory and workshop, in agriculture, yes, and on the field they have shown, that given a chance they will prove they can average as well as men can. Long ago, Joan of Arc demonstrated that emancipated from the disability of female attire she could lead troops to victory. The sympathy of women is more readily stirred than that of men. The patience and devotion of women is an estimable factor in the fight with sickness and death. I repeat without any reserve that experience teaches us that they are every whit as valuable as a doctor.

**COTTAGE HOSPITALS**  
 In the long, sparsely populated portions of the coast a hospital is not possible. To get a really first class surgeon to remain in a district you must give him sufficient work. That is, a sufficient number of cases as will really occupy his time and talents. A real clinic should be established at Twillingate, Bay of Islands, etc., and in between what we call a nursing unit every fifty miles or so. That means a small house presided over by a nurse, trained additionally in minor surgery, obstetrics and rudimentary dentistry. The place should be like Forteau, with hot and cold water, steam heated, a small operating or receiving room, dispensary, a ward or wards with two beds only, and the nurse's living quarters. Forteau is an admirable example. Like Topsy it "grows" by experience. It is inexpensive and nearly self-supporting, being in a moderately populous part of the coast. We are now establishing one in Flower's Cove, and we hope later in Conche. There should be one in White Bay also. The following is an example of what such nurses can do. Our nurse at Conche this Spring had a case of a man who had stabbed himself. His intestines came out. The priest gave an anaesthetic, the nurse cleaned and sewed up the wound and tended it. When the ice permitted five weeks later she brought in her already convalescent skipper to St. Anthony. These places should be on the telegraph or special telephone (as Harrington is) so that they can get advice in bad cases from the central hospital and a surgeon come down. But the laboratories, the electrical and X-ray work and the main clinic need not be more than two hundred miles away. To every elector I have spoken it seemed a gross anachronism that \$135,000.00 should be paid for free treatment at St. John's while those patients treated there might pay half of it as they try to do in the outports and do eventually in most cases. One place has now been promised a real subsidy and an attempt to provide scientific treatment really commenced. The public health improvement in the Colony following such a system would pay back every dollar a hundredfold.

**TRAINING NURSES**  
 St. John's has been doing nobly at the General Hospital to train nurses. We ourselves have always some nurses in training who finish and graduate either in Canada or in the United States. It shows how we are all agreed on the immense importance of real training. In St. John's, people that need a trained nurse can go to the Hospital and get nursing and operation without a cent to pay. The nurses have told me that this takes away the incentive to enter the profession and the very living from the women who, after long training, are hoping to be able at least to earn a living while they serve the country in their beautiful calling.

**A WRONG CUSTOM**  
 Meanwhile it is St. John's who so far has refused even to allow the taxpayers to pay for a hospital for themselves. The wrong is a vital one, and while there is a pathetic need for trained district nurses all over the Colony, the free treatment makes it almost impossible for nurses to live, and so keeps down the supply. Also, the fact that no one pays in St. John's makes men say openly they will not pay either in the outports.

The coming election should settle this question. I pray the electors not to let it pass without a guarantee from every member that he will really put his hand and heart into the matter of saving the suffering and the terrible losses caused by the present utterly selfish policy of centralising hospital work in St. John's. It can be accomplished economically and efficiently if the Government cares two straws about the people.

Faithfully yours,  
 (Sgd.) WILFRED T. GREENFELL  
 Bay of Islands,  
 June 17th, 1919.

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### PLEA FOR BAY HOSPITALS

(To the Editor.)  
 Dear Sir:—During twenty-five years we have demonstrated that bay hospitals are feasible and practical. I am asking Mr. W. H. Jones to forward a letter I want you to print to help along this work. You have been sympathetic in the past, and I feel sure I can count upon your publishing for the benefit of the people of Newfoundland.

Dr. Fisher, of Bay of Islands, from whose house I write, has just been giving me an account of the influenza epidemic that broke out here last fall. It is just such an unusual example of what is happening all over the world on a smaller scale.

It is entirely impossible for one doctor to do justice to them all. There were sixteen hundred patients all together, scattered round. For days together he never lay down, and his assistant nurse tells me that for many days he never ate from morning till night—not being able to return home he never ventured to eat in infected houses. Take one case for example. When the doctor entered the house he found the father lying on the floor where he had fallen in an attempt to reach the cupboard. The eldest son lay on a couch too weak to rise and help his father. Three abandoned children lay crouched in a bed in the next room, where, in another bed the mother lay dead. The doctor wired, pleading with the Government for two nurses, only two, and to let him have a house that stood empty but ready for occupation with twenty beds.

He thought that by bringing together the worst cases he might be able to save some of their lives. They wired back "It is impossible." He then commanded an American nurse who was generous enough to assist him in his work, and who took her life in her hands for twenty dollars a week. The Government offered her eleven dollars, and later sent another nurse and eventually got the twenty dollars. Fifty-six of these poor people died before the nurse came. Scarcely any died after. That if he had a building and proper help more would have been saved, is more than probable.

We had at St. Anthony in the fall forty patients at one time at the hospital and orphanage with influenza. Of these we only lost two.

We have raised for patriotic purposes those who are nominally responsible for the government of the country. Someone is directly responsible for the death of these people. At whose door does it lie? In the letter I am sending you I am pleading for the immediate establishment of a chain of small hospitals with a scientific staff like ours at Forteau.

These can easily be made practically self supporting. You will see the argument in the letter accompanying. Sincerely yours,  
 (Sgd.) WILFRED T. GREENFELL  
 Bay of Islands,  
 June 18th, 1919.

(To the Editor.)  
 Dear Sir:—The letter you so kind-

#### In Loving Memory

In loving memory of Edna Gertrude Pitcher, who passed peacefully away on May 22nd, 1919, after a few weeks illness of pneumonia.

When we see such a precious blossom That we tended with such care, Rudely taken from our bosom, How our aching hearts despair.

And around the grave we linger, Till the setting sun is low, Feeling all our hopes are perished With the flower we cherished so.

Thou art art gone, our dearest Edna, Aid our loss we deeply feel; But we bow in deep submission To our Heavenly Father's will.

You are gone but not forgotten, Never can your memory fade; You are resting now in Heaven, In that bright and happy place.

Composed by Ethel R. Bayly, Mud Cove.

The deceased was the only and darling child of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Pitcher, Mud Cove.