

health insurance the cost of medicine can be brought within the ability to pay of the family of moderate means.

State medicine would have other advantages. To the doctors it would reduce the cost of medical education and assure them of more adequate compensation. It would raise the standards of medical practice, and remove a certain type of competition. It would provide access to needed equipment, too expensive for the individual doctor to buy for himself, and time would be available to those specially qualified to engage in scientific and medical research. It would tend to remove what any doctor here knows about, the temptation, of a kind which comes to no other professional man, to slip into malpractice.

For the patient it would have the advantage of providing for one examination in one place instead of several, without interfering with the personal relation between doctor and patient. It would guide the patient promptly to the best treatment, and provide the hospital, nursing and convalescent care that are necessary, regardless of the patient's ability to pay. It would provide capital outside the medical profession to meet the cost of those unable to pay.

State medicine is logical. It is in keeping with the spirit of the times. We already have it to a considerable degree in such matters as the control of communicable diseases, sanitation, medical care for men in the army and navy and on the railroads and in many industries. They have their nursing staff and medical staff ready at their call. Furthermore this public care for health is constantly increasing. More and more provinces are taking over the field of preventive medicine in part or in whole. Medicine is a proper field for state control, being analogous to education, and applying even more universally than education. It has many things in common with fire and police protection, which are considered indispensable to public safety. There is a legal basis for the control of medicine by the state. The state has certain police powers aiming at the protection of national existence, the maintenance of right or justice, and the public welfare. Public health is an important factor in public safety.

From personal experience I know something about the need for state medicine. I worked on construction work in Calgary and I have seen men keeping themselves in shape with appliances but unable to do a decent day's work. I asked one of them: "Why do you not see a doctor and have that minor operation?" He replied: "My wife and children need the money more than I need the operation." I served as sky pilot in

southern Saskatchewan and saw farmers denying themselves what they needed, and sometimes their wives also suffering, because they were not able to pay for a necessary operation. In Winnipeg and rural Manitoba this need was evident to me twenty years ago, and the need is great at the head of the lakes to-day. Only this morning I had a man in the office who had to take his wife out of the hospital when she should have remained there, because he was not able to pay the \$1.50 a day. I know that condition prevails in many other places.

Down in Cape Breton I was told by an efficient investigator that they have group medicine for those working in the mines. The men pay forty cents a week for cooperative medical service; they carry this themselves without the aid of the city or the state. But there are many people who live and die without proper medical care; children are born without a doctor and die without a nurse; children are undernourished and liable to all kinds of diseases, especially tuberculosis. I would like to give one or two instances from my own knowledge. One is the case of a mother in the city of Fort William with a boy, maintaining herself by keeping house, getting board for herself and son, and earning \$20 a month. The boy developed a sore ear. She did not call a doctor, thinking she would save the expense. The result was that mastoid trouble developed and after protracted treatment she had a medical and hospital bill for over \$400—this woman earning \$20 a month on which to feed and clothe herself and her boy.

I was in our local hospital one day two years ago and saw something that made me decide that I would support anyone who would bring up this matter in the house. This man had seen me thirty years before, but apparently I have kept my youth a little better than he has; for he knew me although I did not recognize him. He said: "I want you to take me home." I said I would if he had the permission of the doctor and the hospital. The next day I got him home, took him out thirty-two miles and found there a cosy little home with four small children. In the bed was the mother with another happy little bundle four days old. I did not wonder that the man wanted to go home; there was no doctor there, and no nurse—just a little slip of a girl. My better half taught them first aid. I felt like rolling up that little bundle of happy possibilities and taking it home and training it as we thought it should be trained. I have seen farmers in our district suffering under the need for medical care, but, as one said to me, he would rather