

observation of children under school age as well as scholars was emphasized.

In regard to tuberculosis stress was laid on the essential point that measures against this disease must embrace the whole of the sick lifetime of the patient, and must include when necessary, measures for obviating the results arising from the fact that the partially recovered patient commonly is unable to earn an economic wage.

In the prevention of venereal diseases a similarly wide outlook was advocated, including the necessary social and moral as well as medical measures against their spread.

In the preceding brief statement I have endeavored to indicate the main outlines of the proposals considered by the Cannes conference. My statements are merely those of a participator in the conference; and it is evident that outside of the momentous decision to endeavor to retain mobilized the forces of Red Cross organizations and to secure their assistance in the great impending struggle against disease, no final decisions have been made. The growth of the central and of each National organization in the desired direction must necessarily occupy time, though I believe development will be rapid, once the great ideal is visualized clearly by Red Cross workers in each country.

I have referred in an earlier part of these remarks to the imperfections of governments, central and local, in the control of disease. These imperfections indicate one of the most promising fields in which voluntary agencies, like the Red Cross, can assist toward greater efficiency. Both local and central authorities are elected by the people themselves and the laws and regulations for the promotion of the public health—and, what is even more important, the enforcement of existing regulations—depend for their efficiency on public opinion, which we can all assist in forming. The natural tendency on the part of the social enthusiast who has been disappointed in his efforts at reform, is either to retire from the fight or to organize a voluntary organization having the same end in view. This last may sometimes be the best line to pursue, though in that case endeavor should be made to secure friendly relationship with, if not also the active co-operation of, the local authority. But often the most hopeful plan is to fight the local elections and to secure the election on local governing bodies of men and women who will give these bodies no peace until the necessary reforms are secured.

If we are to be helpful we must be kindly and charitable in our criticism of local authorities. Nothing has made it so difficult to secure good men and women to undertake the burden of local government as the indiscriminating and uncharitable criticism aimed at those engaged in it. Criticism of members of our central and local governing bodies