

tribution to our deliberations.

There are those who point to the Commission of Government as those who have instituted a new day in public health and welfare services in this country. I do not see how it could have started on the scale it did a decade ago had it not been for the financial assistance afforded by the United Kingdom. The aid received made it possible to make a good start in enlarging the health and social services.

The family doctor is filling and has filled a very important place in the sphere of social welfare and health services. In going his rounds he has not only built up his practice but left an influence which, when he is no longer available, leaves a void very difficult to fill. The modern tendency for the majority of doctors graduating is to specialise, and it seems these prefer to practice where a hospital is located and where hospital facilities are readily procurable. In the rapid strides and advances that have taken place in the field of medical science and scientific knowledge it is admitted even by the layman that methods may quickly become outmoded; thus it is understandable that doctors may prefer to join the staff of a hospital, but in the viewpoint of many who have had the valuable services of the family practitioner, they still much prefer to see the genial face of the family doctor, rather than having to take their sick to the hospital. There may be some who wonder if our medical services have not been extended too rapidly and spread out too thin, so to speak, and question if the country can afford to carry them. But the big question is, can the country afford not to have them? These cottage hospitals (a special feature of Newfoundland) are part of a system of modified socialised medicine. No country can expect to reach its utmost capacity of production unless its inhabitants attain a satisfactory standard of health, and a nation's health is a matter of the most vital concern and consideration, and the provision of adequate health and welfare services is of paramount importance. We must look not only at the present but also to the future, and we see need of further expansion yet.

The shortage of nurses is a serious problem. It is readily understood that hospitals require doctors and many nurses to staff them, and if they are to function properly, the need of sufficient trained personnel is most apparent. During the

war there was a greater scarcity of doctors and as time goes on and more medical students graduate this shortage will be gradually overcome. Many nurses marry after graduation and unless they take up private nursing, generally speaking they are not available. It has been questioned whether the spirit of self-sacrifice in this noble profession is not dying out. Personally I do not think it is. I understand the same situation exists in Canada. The scale of payments in Newfoundland offered to student nurses — \$150 for the first year, \$200 for the second year and \$250 for the third year, may account for some of the shortage. During the war many young ladies found more remunerative employment at the bases and elsewhere and many entered the teaching profession.

The opening up of the new buildings at the Sanatorium has been delayed by the lack of nurses. The need of many more nurses is urgent; also more beds for patients. The tremendous work of the Department of Public Health and Welfare itself suffered during the war owing to the fact that it lost some of its key men through enlistments, and the higher wages paid by outside companies naturally attracted others at headquarters to better paid positions.

Perhaps it is not out of order to mention that the success of efforts on behalf of preventative and curative medicine in Newfoundland, and of any all-round general scheme of health and social services, depends on the degree of co-operation between the people, the medical and nursing professions and the government. Our system of taxation should provide that all can get the necessities of life at the very lowest prices. The matter of nutrition is intimately connected and linked up with health. Proper foods, as well as proper nutritional values, are vitally necessary for our good health....

One of the most serious problems affecting Newfoundland is the great white plague, the silent menace, tuberculosis. I add my voice to the many others who have given unstinted praise to the laudable efforts of the Newfoundland Tuberculosis Association in the great work it has undertaken to assist to the utmost to rid Newfoundland of this scourge. It is hoped that the government will not only be ever ready but over-zealous to assist in this colossal work undertaken by a band of voluntary workers. This dread disease can be stamped out only by continued and concerted