

mask, and full supplies can be procured from firms. (c.) Food and clothing should be arranged to be provided for households if required. Lists should be compiled of persons willing to supply special foods for sick people.

11. Extra hospitals : Arrange for suitable buildings for extra hospitals, to be immediately available if required. Have list of all equipment and staff ready.

12. Temporary homes for children : Secure some large buildings to be used as children's homes, in which children from sick households could be kept.

13. Vigilance Committee : Appoint a Vigilance Committee, some of the duties of which would be to give special attention to the hotels and large boardinghouses, to see that no inmates were lacking attention, and to also inquire into reports from neighbours, &c., of uncared-for cases of sickness in private homes. In this connection residents should be instructed beforehand, through the newspapers, to fasten a small white flag to the gate-post or doorway as a signal for assistance, and the ambulance staff or the medical men could then inquire on seeing the signal when passing.

14. Funerals : Although there may probably be no real need for any Committee of this kind, still such may be advisable to deal with possible delays or other emergencies in hotels, boardinghouses, or in other directions.

15. Public advice : Placards should be prepared and posted outside the post-offices, newspaper offices, and telephone-boxes supplying information as to where to apply for any particular class of assistance required.

Leaflets should be prepared and printed for distribution giving advice to the general public as to precautionary measures to be taken in the way of personal hygiene, house-cleaning, the importance of ventilation, and the first steps to be taken in case of illness.

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY.

The outstanding lesson to be drawn from the mass of evidence which the Commission has received is that we cannot hope to secure the best methods of preventing or dealing with any recurrence of an epidemic such as we have recently experienced unless we are prepared to lay aside the impediments of personal bias in favour of united co-operative action.

In combating the swift and insidious attack of this most serious disease it is quite as necessary to have ordered forces, disciplined and co-ordinated throughout from the Minister of the Crown to the smallest Boy Scout, as it was to have well-directed and disciplined Forces to meet the enemy in the recent war. Just as the war called for general recognition of responsibility on the part of all who wished for the preservation of justice and liberty, so does the warning of a great and devastating epidemic call upon all who desire the great benefits of health and well-being to bear their share ungrudgingly in any work that is necessary for the protection of the lives of our people. In the ultimate analysis we find that the responsibility rests upon the public for the existence of so many defects and weaknesses attached to our public-health system. Were there active public opinions upon health questions many of the evils that now exist could not long remain. It has been brought home to the Commission by the evidence given and by the general attitude of witnesses that we, as a people, have been too much disposed to regard affairs relating to public health as being almost exclusively the province of the medical expert and the specialist, instead of being the concern of the general body of citizens, as it should be.

CONCURRENCE IN REPORT.

Owing to the unavoidable absence in Auckland of the Hon. Edward Mitchelson, one of your Commissioners, it has not been found convenient to procure his signature to this report, but he has signified to the Chairman, by telegram received, his concurrence in the matter of submitting an interim report to Your Excellency on the subject-matter contained in clause (2) of the order of reference, and has forwarded his views to be embodied in such report.

In witness of the contents hereof we have hereunto set our hands this twenty-second day of April, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

J. E. DENNISTON, Chairman.
D. McLAREN, Member.