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Address.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH BEFORE THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.*

In speaking to the doctors, I address a body of men whose profession is honorably distinguished because in practical fashion it sets service as the ideal before those who follow it. Of course a doctor, like everyone else, must earn his own livelihood and make enough money to support his wife and children, or he will be only a drag on the community; and equally of course in your profession, as in every other profession, there are some sordid creatures who think only of making money. But these men are the exceptions, and there is in your profession a strong public opinion which scorns such a sordid perversion of your great and noble art. You preach and practice the doctrine of service; of service rendered primarily for itself and only secondarily for the money reward.

In the present great national crisis of the world war, it is precisely this doctrine of service upon which we need to lay most stress. Of course service normally means self-sacrifice. But I do not think that you ought to let your minds dwell very much on the sacrifice. The man who does not heartily do his full duty by the nation in this crisis is not fit to be a citizen. He does well, but not extraordinarily well, if he makes whatever sacrifice is necessary. But if he does not make such sacrifice he shows himself to be an abject creature, who should be hunted out of the society of self-respecting freemen. What we need to hold ever before our eyes is not the incidental sacrifice but the high honor and privilege of being permitted to render the service. Every young man of the right temper will eagerly long for the chance to render such service and will count himself thrice fortunate if

he wins the great prize of securing the chance to render it, no matter what price he may pay in danger and hardship. This is especially true of young doctors, for surgeons are sorely needed for our Allies and for ourselves. England, France, Italy, and perhaps above all, Russia, Serbia, Armenia and Syria, need them. As for our own men, if we do not effectively exert every effort to prevent sickness among and secure camp hygiene for our soldiers, we shall show ourselves guilty of the gravest moral dereliction. Every young doctor should volunteer his services; no man has a right to hold back unless he has a young family with claims so urgent that they cannot be disregarded.

Some well meaning men talk as if their duty would be fully performed if they served when drafted. This is a great error. Service under the draft merely represents the minimum duty which will be accepted by the state. If it lies within your power you should strive to render far more than the minimum service. Many good men of no special aptitude for other than line work will not be able to get the chance to render service until and unless they are drafted. Therefore the drafted man who does his duty stands on a full level of honor with the man who volunteers to do duty. But the man who is not drafted does not stand on a level with his drafted brother unless he eagerly and persistently seeks the opportunity to volunteer wherever he can do useful service. If he is denied this opportunity through no fault of his own, then he is free from all blame; although if he is of the right type he will bitterly regret that he has not been allowed to render the service. But he must be in good faith and earnestly seek the opportunity. The young doctor or surgeon, and the young man who is fitted to render service of any kind under the doctors in the Medical Corps, are badly needed at this moment. They are needed now; this week; to-day. Therefore let every young doctor, every young man fit to render aid under a doctor, come forward at once and volunteer his services.

*Through the courtesy of Colonel Roosevelt we are enabled to publish this eloquent address, which was delivered at the Hippodrome, June 7, 1917, to a large audience of physicians.

This work I ask you to do is of imperative importance, and the need is instant. Meet that need now. Do not wait. Speed is of the first consequence. All of you here, as soon as you get back to your home towns, proceed to arrange the hospital assignments, and everything of that kind, so that the young fellow just out of college or the medical school will be free to volunteer for immediate service in our army. Let the older men who because of age, or of other disabilities, or for other good reason, cannot get into the army, arrange to do the work the young men usually do, and leave the latter free to volunteer for service abroad. This will mean that the men of each class, those able to go and those not able to go, will be doing their full duty. Do it now!

We are in the great war for the sake both of our national honor and vital national interest, and for the sake of humanity and civilization throughout the world. For two years before we most reluctantly went to war, Germany had been engaged in a steady and relentless campaign of murder against American women and children and unarmed men. Germany has struck blows at international right and justice which means that unless she is signally punished the whole movement for international fair dealing and brotherhood will have been put back for centuries. To the conquered countries she has behaved with a systematic and appalling brutality which is literally unparalleled among civilized nations since the close of the hideous religious wars of the seventeenth century. I wish that every American would read Arthur Gleason's just published book, "Our Part in the Great War"; for no American who reads it can fail to feel his blood boil with horror and anger over the fearful cruelties it recounts, and the shameful folly this country showed in not instantly taking action to rebuke those cruelties and in refusing even to prepare to defend itself. No American who reads it, if he has a spark of manhood and of the old American spirit in his soul, can fail to feel his heart harden with the resolute purpose (inasmuch as at last, thank Heaven, we have dared to fight for the right) to do his part in seeing that this nation remains steadfast in the war until it is crowned by complete and overwhelming victory; and let this man feel that his children will turn from him in shame unless he does all that in him lies to aid in bringing this victory.