

being carried on. In 1908 the deaths from tuberculosis were 2,511 (a rate of 1.1 per 1,000, or 7.6 per cent. of the total deaths).

Since this report was written the returns for 1910 are available, and these show the number of deaths in Ontario from tuberculosis to have been 2,287, a decrease of 1,118 since 1899, a period of only eleven years. The percentage of all deaths due to tuberculosis was in 1910 only 6.8 per cent., and the ratio of deaths to living population was only 90 per 100,000, which is a further marked decrease.

"We think it only fair to assume, then," Dr. Dobbie goes on to say, "that this decline from 11.8 per cent. to 6.8 per cent., is due, at least in some measure, to the effort already put forth to stamp out this disease. And if so, we feel justified in looking for a still further decrease in the death rate, if more accommodation could be provided for the tuberculous, especially the advanced cases, and still more done to enlighten the public regarding the means of preventing this widespread, but controllable, disease."

ASSYRIAN MEDICINE.

The patient work of the archaeologist enabled people in 1911 to form a very fair idea of medical science as it existed in Nineveh 650 years before the birth of Christ. Of the 20,000 tablets taken from the library of Assurbanipal, the great King of Assyria, who conquered Egypt and Babylonia and established his subjects in the deserted cities of Samaria, hundreds deal exclusively with medicine, and contain numerous prescriptions.

"If a man has colic make him stand up and pour over him a decoction of hypericum and he will recover.

"Or make him crouch down on his heels and pour cold water over his head."

Faith healing seems to be indicated in a prescription which runs: "If he is in a weak state make him bend down, then raise his legs and say: 'May you get quite well.' Strike him also on the head fourteen times with your thumb."

Many prescriptions deal with the cure of a disorder, which was very common at Nineveh, and which seems to have been due to over-indulgence in food and drink: "When a man is bilious rub him with an onion, and let him drink nothing but water and abstain from food altogether."

Among the medicines used by the physicians of Nineveh were sesame, olive oil, castor oil, syrup of dates, honey and salt. Fasting and massage were frequently ordered.