

Q. That is for one year?—A. Yes. It is the smallest number that has ever been since the thing was started.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Do you think it would be advisable to make such a Bill more comprehensive? I mean so that it would include such other conditions as mental deficiency, insanity, epilepsy, and so on?—A. I would think so.

Q. In the exercise of your professional duties have you been able to satisfy yourself as to the consequences of a marriage being contracted between two parties that are infected with syphilis, or between parties of whom one is infected with syphilis?—A. Yes. I have seen some very terrible tragedies.

*By Hon. Mr. Daniel:*

Q. Would you describe the results that you have noticed?—A. This happened a good many years ago—I should think thirty years ago. A postman came to my office one day—this is the whole story—with what looked like a chancre on his lip. He was a very decent sort of chap. Within a week another postman out of the same branch office arrived with a chancre on his lip. I took the trouble to go to the branch post office, and there I found a man with secondaries in his mouth, and upon inquiry I found that the strings which they have around their packages were thrown into a common box when they return, and that when they are doing up bundles they take one end of the string in their mouth and rap it around the bundle. This one man infected the two others, apparently, in this way. The wife of the man with the mucous patches never had any sign of syphilis; but they had a baby shortly after that and it was just a mass of syphilis when it was born—sore bottom, and sores all over it—and it died a few days afterwards. That is one of the early tragedies that I recall.

In other walks of life one sees it every little while—something that is not suspected at all of being venereal; and when you make inquiry, it has to be done very carefully, and you will find that the husband some years before had had syphilis and had carried it. I remember being “fired” from a patient a good many years ago. I was sent for in hot haste because a man was choking to death. When I looked in his throat I saw the whole roof of his mouth was gone, and the upper part of his larynx was eaten away. He had had syphilis fifteen years previously. Apparently his wife had not contracted it, and he had had two healthy daughters, 11 and 13. But he was dying from the effects of it. I have never been able to trace those daughters. He asked me as best he could talk, to explain to his wife what the situation was. Of course there was no blood test at that time. He had been examined and pronounced cured before the marriage. I explained it as nicely as I could to her, and she promptly ordered me out of the house: she was sure her husband didn't have it.

Q. You are not familiar with any statistics with regard to this matter?—A. No, I am not.

Q. One of the witnesses we had here, Dr. Hincks, I think it was, made some statements with regard to the necessity of interesting the medical profession in any Bill of this kind before it passed into law. He thought that the success of any Bill of this kind would depend upon the view that the medical profession throughout Canada took of it, as to whether they were unfavourable to it, and as to the best mode in their opinion of carrying it into effect. You are President of the Canadian Medical Association?—A. Yes.

Q. What would you consider to be the best method by which the opinions of the medical profession throughout the country could be obtained on this matter?—A. In groups of various medical men all over the Dominion something of this kind has often been discussed—not as a formal discussion at a medical meeting, but groups, together—and the opinion has very often been