

patient. It is true that some of these cases of direct infection were so striking as to cause some of the most careful and observant practitioners to pause and reflect; dimly groping in the dark after what we know now to be the truth, namely, that tuberculosis is a specific infective disease, due to a micro-organism, Koch's bacillus, which may be, and often is, directly communicated from one person to another.

I well remember a man, known and beloved by many present, respected by all, and who is now, I believe, the father of the medical profession in Toronto—I am speaking of Dr. James Richardson, Emeritus Professor in this faculty—saying to me in his usual forcible and incisive manner, after seeing, in consultation, two fatal cases of phthisis within a few weeks of each other, in the same house: "Doctor, I cannot help believing that consumption is sometimes infectious." I rejoice that, full of years and honor, "the old one," as those who know him best, delight to call him, has been spared to see verified a foreknowledge, considerably anterior to the date of Koch's great discovery. By this discovery many valuable lives have already been saved and in the future the victim of the white man's plague, that plague so prevalent in England, as to have received from our neighbors across the Channel the name of *la maladie anglaise*, will no longer have the door of hope closed against him, but will be told that consumption is curable, and that with care and attention to hygiene, his life will be prolonged, possibly saved.

It has been said that war has been declared by the medical profession upon tuberculosis, and that in time it ought to be stamped out, just as have been, practically, rabies and typhus fever in England, and the establishment of sanatoria for consumptives all over the civilized world, among which our own sanatorium at Gravenhurst is doing excellent work, shows at least that the profession is in earnest in waging this conflict. For myself, I confess I am not so sanguine as to the ultimate extinction of this plague. One great difficulty we encounter at the outset is the deeply-rooted and almost universal belief in the mind of the laity that cold air, or as they call it, "catching cold," is with the consumptive the root of all evil. It will be your duty, gentlemen, to combat this popular error, to teach your patients that sunshine and fresh air, and especially fresh, dry air, are inimical to the growth of the bacillus, and that fresh air, proper food, and hygienic surroundings are more to be relied upon than any medicine in the prevention and treatment of this universal and once hopeless disease.

To impress upon you the importance of this subject, for I deem it one important in the highest degree, and also because in this audience it will readily be understood, I will quote to you the record of an interesting, but costly mistake, made some