

their utmost capacity, necessitating emergency accommodation. In 1918 the Marion Beck nurses' residence was donated by Sir Adam and Lady Beck as a token of thanksgiving for the restoration to health of their daughter. In 1921 Lady Beck passed away. Sir Adam died on August 15, 1925. Much sorrow was felt when these deaths occurred; for these good people were the essence of self-sacrifice, charity and goodness towards their fellow men.

Mention should also be made at this time of the erection of the veterans' memorial building, which was a gift of the Byron sanatorium branch of the tuberculous veterans' section of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., as a tribute to those men who during the period of their own illness had unselfishly given of their strength to help others. One-half of the building contains a rest room for the use of visitors to the sanatorium, and the other half is used by the officers of the Byron branch. On the occasion of the dedication and the opening ceremony, held on November 23, 1930, the Hon. Colonel Murray MacLaren, then Minister of Pensions and National Health, was present and officiated.

For some years the quarters provided for the members of the staff of the Queen Alexandra sanatorium who were engaged in active work in connection with the field of tuberculosis research had been most inadequate. Through the generosity of Mr. W. L. Mara the Mara laboratory was founded. This laboratory is most modern and up to date from the point of view of scientific equipment and X-ray apparatus, and it was erected as a memorial to the Mara family. Doctor J. G. FitzGerald, dean of the faculty of medicine of the university of Toronto, officially opened the building on October 28, 1932.

The area particularly served by the Queen Alexandra sanatorium comprises the counties of Middlesex, Elgin, Lambton, Kent, Huron, Perth and Oxford, although patients are admitted from any county in Ontario. Clinics for the free diagnosing and examination of contacts and suspected cases are conducted as follows: In London, at the Victoria hospital, twice weekly; at the Westminster hospital, three times weekly, ex-soldiers only; at St. Joseph's hospital, weekly; and monthly in Ingersoll, Goderich, Sarnia, Stratford, Chatham and Woodstock. These clinics, which require the services of two full-time senior staff physicians, and one half-time stenographer, are financed through the sale of Christmas seals in the counties mentioned. In addition to the diagnostic clinics there are four out-patient clinics a week, as the sanatorium to which patients previously treated in the sanatorium return for their pneumothorax treat-

[Mr. Ross (Middlesex).]

ments. An average of seventy-five patients a month receive these treatments. The sanatorium property consists of 543 acres of land, and it is necessary to rent an additional 150 acres. An accredited herd of 180 holstein and jersey cattle and a flock of some 3,000 white leghorn hens provide the milk and fresh eggs so essential in the diet of the tuberculosis patient. The sanatorium has its own pasteurizing plant; a large garden produces fresh fruit and vegetables in season. For some time now the sanatorium has been administered under the very able leadership of Doctor D. W. Crombie, medical superintendent.

That is the statistical part. I have some personal touches which may be of interest to hon. members. As the sanatorium is situated in my riding, I have had opportunity time and time again to visit it, and have had many discussions with the staff physicians. These lead me to the comforting impression that much has been done and is being done to stem the ravages of the white plague. Among those interested in the disease there is an appreciable feeling of optimism as to what may be done in the future, both in the treatment of the individual patient and in prevention. This feeling of optimism appears to be growing. As a layman I am struck by one outstanding fact, so obvious that the mention of it seems like the utterance of a truism, that is that tuberculosis is preventable.

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease. It is caused by a known organism called the tubercle bacillus, which has been recognized for about fifty years. This germ is transmitted from the diseased to the healthy. Inasmuch as the disease is caused by a known organism, it differs from the so-called degenerative diseases. Being caused by a known agency, tuberculosis should theoretically be preventable. In spite of this, however, there were 6,591 deaths from this disease in the dominion in 1936. This is not said in criticism of the agencies which are engaged in anti-tuberculosis work. To them goes our warmest praise; for they have waged an unremitting battle against the plague and have used to the utmost all available weapons against it. There are many medical, social and economic factors which make the struggle for the prevention of tuberculosis much more difficult than the campaigns so successfully directed against other infectious diseases, such as diphtheria and typhoid fever, which used to take such great toll of human life but now are relatively rare. However, in spite of difficulties it is evident that real progress has been made towards conquest of the disease.