

German soldiers in a certain garrison, from linen not properly disinfected, and ceased when this precaution was properly attended to.

In these matters the co-operation of the health officer and his staff ought to be courted rather than resented; and my opinion is that for systematic disinfection, personal oversight by a *competent* inspector is at first, and from time to time, necessary.

I would here emphasize the necessity of prompt reporting of infectious diseases, for how otherwise can the germs be stamped out in the incipency of what must otherwise become an epidemic?

Local boards of health.—I would also add my voice to the representations that are from time to time made regarding the composition of these boards. It does not need much argument to convince the ordinary individual that men who understand disease, sanitary architecture, plumbing, engineering, chemistry, and biology, are more fitted to deal with sanitary matters than men who have no knowledge of these subjects.

Practical scientific work.—Having referred in this lecture to the progress, side by side, that is being made in scientific, biological and chemical investigations, and their practical application to the prevention and cure of disease, I cannot refrain from alluding to the work that is being carried on by this University and in this building. Can it be shown that the scientific labors of Professors Ramsay Wright, Ellis, Pike, Loudon, and Macallum, have been retarded by association with their colleagues in this Medical Faculty? Do they not rather derive additional stimulus and satisfaction by the practical application of a portion of their work to various problems of surgery, medicine, and hygiene? I need not ask you if this association and collaboration has diminished the interest of either the profession or the public in University work, for your presence at these lectures and the attention with which you have listened to them render the question unnecessary; and I know that in regard to this faculty of the University, as well as in regard to others, you will join in the expression of our university motto: "*Velut arbor ævo crescat, velut lampas luceat.*"

That our Vice-Chancellor recognizes the

value to the people of such association of scientific research and its practical application is evinced by his recent generous conduct, and the letter in which his proposition was made known to the faculty.

Nor would I close a paper in which I have referred so often to bacteriological investigations without expressing the gratification of many of us at another new departure which has recently been made. I refer to the inauguration of the bacteriological laboratory in connection with the Provincial Board of Health, in which at the present time Mr. J. J. McKenzie, B.A., a graduate and recent fellow in biology of this University, is carrying on researches in connection with the typhoid bacillus. I am sure you will join with me in expressing appreciation of the wisdom of the Government in aiding this onward movement for the preservation of the public health, recognizing once more the motto of the Provincial Board of Health:

"Ne pereat populus scientia absente."

KOCH'S TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

BY PROF. R. RAMSAY WRIGHT,

Communicated from Berlin to the University of Toronto.

I was present at the last meeting of the Berlin Medical Society when Liebreich made his promised statement with regard to the new remedy which he had suggested for use in tuberculosis—especially for such superficial and easily watched forms as laryngeal tuberculosis.

He certainly created a sensation when he stated that his remedy was really an old friend in a new dress—viz., cantharides. He had been led to suggest its use by observing the effect of Köch's tuberculin in lupus, which recalled to him the action of certain irritants in the same disease. He therefore experimented with the pure substance, cantharidin, or rather with the potassium salt—cantharidate of potash, with the object of ascertaining what dose could be safely introduced hypodermically. It had been observed that the tendency of the drug is to bring about transudations from the capillaries, and it occurred to him that if the dose could be ascertained which would not affect normal capillaries, but which would cause a transudation through the walls of those already