

MAKING APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Those Desiring to Enter the Muskoka Free Hospital for
Consumptives Can Learn How by Reading
What Follows.

[For the information of medical men who have patients they would like to send to the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives and for others who are looking for help in this way, there has been prepared a twenty-page booklet, giving very complete details and answering almost any likely question of an applicant. This booklet will be sent free to anyone who writes the Head Office of the National Sanitarium Association, Toronto. We publish below a few extracts from the booklet.]

Admission.

Any person desiring admission to the hospital should send or apply to Mr. J. S. Robertson, Secretary National Sanitarium Association, Saturday Night Building, Toronto, for blank application forms, which, when filled in, should show that the patient cannot afford to pay full maintenance at a pay Sanatorium and therefore needs the help of the hospital, and also that he or she is medically a suitable case for treatment there. The hospital is in no sense a home for consumptives in advanced stages. It is for cases which can be cured or admit of hope of radical improvement. If possible it is advisable for the patient to be examined by one of the examining physicians appointed in various parts of the country (see list). All examination forms are then referred to the physician-in-charge at the hospital, and are most carefully considered. Cases obviously unfit are refused; cases accepted are grouped in classes I., II., and III., according to favorableness of outlook; class III. consisting of very doubtful cases. As the present accommodation of the hospital is far from sufficient for all who apply for admission, it is necessary to give preference to the cases most likely to do well, and cases which prove to be unsuitable are given a month's treatment and training in care of themselves and others, and discharged. It must be remembered that it is impossible always to judge a case accurately by a written description, so all cases which enter the hospital are on probation until the physician-in-charge has approved them. Cases classified from the form as I., or II., may prove to be so unsuitable that they are allowed only the one month above referred to, while class III. cases sometimes make a good showing and are kept the full term.

Accommodation.

There is at present room for seventy-five patients in the group of buildings comprising main building, one pavilion, and five roofed tents or shacks. This accommodation is likely to be increased very soon.

Ward System.

All patients are in wards. There are no private rooms, except infirmary rooms for temporary acute illnesses. Any statement to the effect that patients can be lodged in separate rooms is erroneous. The roofed tents are for men, four in each.

Class of Patients.

The pavilion (twelve beds) is also used for men. In the main building are four eight-bed wards, one of five beds and one of four. Most of the main building wards are for women. The space, high ceilings, and many sunny windows of the wards, assure far better air and light than could possibly be had in single rooms, and a degree of privacy may well be sacrificed in view of the benefits to be obtained. Moreover, the patients who have come to the hospital have been almost without exception of most respectable classes and are pleasant neighbors — good work-people, and also clergymen, teachers, artists, nurses, students, etc., who have been dependent upon their own efforts and had no reserve for illness.

Fear of Infection Groundless.

There is a popular fear, shared also by some physicians, that it is dangerous to go to a consumptive sanatorium, that incipient cases may contract more serious infection and that doubtful cases would run grave risks. The fact is that a sanatorium that is properly run is the safest possible refuge from tuberculosis.