

diphtheria, scarlet fever and measles are admitted without a question. In such cases, however, proper precautions are taken. The patients are isolated and everything about them properly disinfected. Now are we to admit that in these cases we can prevent the spread of the disease but that in the case of tuberculosis we are powerless? In the cases of tuberculosis the causal germ is well-known and the means of rendering it inert are equally well-known. Will the authorities of those hospitals who look with disfavor upon the admission of tuberculosis patients assert that they can prevent the spread of scarlet fever, the causal germ of which is unknown, but that they are powerless to prevent the spread of tuberculosis the causal germ of which is so well-known? If it is possible by isolation and proper disinfection to prevent the spread of scarlet fever (and no one denies that it is), is it not equally possible to prevent the spread of tuberculosis? We believe that it is. With properly isolated wards, preferably on the top storey, and with ordinary care in disinfecting the sputum and other discharges from tuberculous patients we see no reason why they should be excluded from our public hospitals. But some one may say granting that tuberculous patients may be properly cared for in our public hospitals would it not be better to have separate institutions for such patients? Perhaps it would. Would it not be better also to have separate institutions for the care of patients suffering from the other contagious diseases? Everyone will, we think, say yes. But look at the cost. A sanatorium for tuberculous patients must have a resident Medical Superintendent and other officials. Providing the municipalities assisted by the Government will establish these institutions in a large number of centres throughout the Dominion well and good. But until these sanatoria are established what are the poor consumptives to do if they are in the meanwhile refused admission to the already existing hospitals? Many of them are poor and cannot afford either to go away or to have a separate room at home. Are they then to be allowed to mingle with their neighbors and the other members of their families and thus spread the dread disease around? Surely not. The Government ought to compel the hospitals not only to admit such patients but also to provide properly isolated wards for them. This can readily be