

THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Some very good work was done at the recent meeting in London by the association for the prevention of tuberculosis.

Dr. J. G. Adami, of Montreal, took the ground that small sanatoria in each county would do much more good than a large one far away from most of the population. This is a logical position. If sanatoria are to do any good, they must be reasonably near the afflicted and their friends.

There are now 20 sanatoria in Canada; and of these, 12 are in Ontario. The death rate from tuberculosis in Canada has fallen from 150 per 100,000 of the population to 112, during the past 15 years.

It was urged that this question should be made a national one. It was necessary that the Federal Government should take the matter up along with the provinces, and arrive at some definite plan of action. Good is sure to come from this agitation.

THE CHURCHES AND TUBERCULOSIS.

That the churches have a great influence on the social life and welfare of a country, all will at once admit. How far they should embark upon the subject of hygiene and preventive medicine may be open to some argument.

We do not hesitate to express the opinion that the churches can do few services of greater value to man than to continually preach the doctrine of John Wesley that "cleanliness is next to Godliness." A great amount of disease might be prevented by merely insisting upon this simple truth. To this teaching of Wesley we might add the breathing of pure air, the drinking of pure water, and the eating of wholesome food.

In the United States, two churches have gone into active work for the prevention of tuberculosis and the management of early cases of the disease. Emmanuel Church in Boston, and St. George's Church in New York have classes for the study of the prevention of the disease and the proper care of those who may have contracted it. These classes are well attended and doing very good work. In St. George's Church, in addition to instruction, financial assistance is given to those who should have a rest, but could not afford to take such, as they might have families dependent upon their earnings.

It is found that persons are willing to come to these classes for information. That they profit by this information, there is no doubt. Persons are also more ready to avail themselves of the treatment offered at the church dispensary than they would be at the ordinary dispensary.