

their daily rounds are brought face to face not only with this disease in its various stages, but also with the distress and poverty that are its natural consequences. Could there be then a more fitting place for its discussion than the thirty-second annual meeting of this National Association of medical men?

I hope, therefore, Mr. President, that this paper will receive at the hands of this meeting the consideration that the subject deserves, and that you will bear with me while I endeavor as briefly as possible to state some of the more important reasons in support of the propositions I have here laid down.

You will observe that I have left the broader domain of the subject and confined myself strictly to one phase, which I believe is of the utmost importance in checking the spread of tuberculosis and lessening the mortality therefrom, namely, the isolation and treatment of the consumptive poor and the providing the necessary funds therefor.

The subject has been dealt with somewhat exhaustively from a scientific and clinical standpoint, and the consensus of opinion is that the disease is contagious, preventable, and curable, especially in the earlier stages.

Sanatoria have been built in various parts of the world, and the medical and public opinion in both Great Britain and America is, that whether viewed from a preventative or curative standpoint, the sanatoria treatment of tuberculosis has produced the best results.

But while sanatoria provision has been made for the reception and treatment of those who are able and willing to pay, so far the doors have been closed against the poor. While the mortality of the disease falls most heavily upon the artisan, the wage-earner, and especially upon the poor, where the conditions and surroundings are more favorable to the spread of the disease, it is a deplorable fact that no sanatorium door is to-day open to the consumptive poor. The object of this paper is to open a door.

I need not dwell upon the first two propositions setting forth the desirability of rural sanatoria, of isolation in existing hospitals, as these, when viewed from a scientific and clinical standpoint, like the axioms and postulates of Euclid, are self-evident, not only to medical men, but to every thinking person, and therefore require no discussion, argument, or demonstration.

But while we should ever keep before us the scientific and clinical aspect of this question, and it is perhaps more strictly within the province of this Association to confine its deliberations to that side, yet if any progress is expected to be made in a more rational way of dealing with the consumptive poor, public opinion must be directed to the practical, financial, and economical side; and this is the object of the third proposition, to which I shall devote the time yet allotted to me.

The third proposition calls for the co-operation of the Dominion Parliament, Provincial Legislatures, municipalities, philanthropic