

The protection of the citizen is the highest duty of the State ; each healthy and wage earning individual is an asset, valuable according to his capacity for work. There is no greater destroyer of health and life than consumption in our Dominion to-day, and its economic importance is enhanced by the fact that the victims, now commonly attacked, are young adults, who, after incurring the expense of rearing and education, are on the threshold of the most productive period of life. Rich and poor it equally attacks, and often casts upon the street the orphan to become the pauper, the criminal, and the prostitute.

Laws have been enacted to regulate the sale of poisons, to prevent the adulteration of foods, and for the protection of employees against accidents and oppression. Why should this scourge alone be allowed to pursue its ravages unchecked ?

Having, I think, pretty conclusively demonstrated the responsibility of the State, I would like to suggest briefly the means which I think should be taken to remedy the existing condition of things.

1. As ignorance must bear much of the blame of this dread disease, I hold it is the duty of the educational authorities to provide for the instruction of both child and adult in the school and lecture hall, as to cause, prevention and cure of tuberculosis, not by text-books and speeches containing an exaggerated misstatement of facts, as has been attempted by the over-zealous opponents of alcohol and tobacco ; but by an honest and unbiased explanation and exposition of the subject, which will leave no room for controversy and disagreement, and which, placed in simple language and lucid form, will appeal to all classes of intelligence. The campaign of education for the adult might be carried out by local and itinerant lecturers, who should be medical men or others thoroughly familiar with the subject, and able to give expression to their ideas. The schoolmaster, when himself instructed, should, with the aid of suitable text-books, be able to adequately instruct the child.

2. Laws governing the ventilation, heating and cleanliness of schools, churches, public buildings and workshops should be enforced as well as enacted, and an organized system of inspection instituted.

3. Physical culture should enter largely into the regular curriculum of every school and college ; and this instruction and exercise should, in the elementary classes and in the earlier years, bear a much greater proportion to the hours of mental cultivation than is usually suggested. Can you picture the condition of physical development of a generation of school children who had devoted, say one-half of their school hours to physical exercises and calisthenics under capable and diligent instruction ? Why, one might almost hope thus to develop a race of giants.