

and civilization require a physique and brain-power equal to the occasion to meet successfully the trying demands of the present age.

The enthusiasm of the Canadian people in assisting in the protection of British interests in South Africa was placed beyond doubt by the rapid equipment of fully 3000 men, who entered the field, and displayed bravery not surpassed in the history of the Empire. As a result many valuable lives have been lost, by the sword and disease; but it is most appalling to reflect on the fact that over 3000 deaths by consumption were recorded in the fair province of Ontario in 1898, and yet our people are not aroused to this great fatality, now assuming such alarming proportions. The seeds of this disease lurk in our country, in our homes, in our places of business, in the food we eat, in the water and the milk we drink, and in the air we breathe, spreading disease, fatal in its results, and producing a most disastrous influence on the present generation.

As a profession, it is our duty to guide and direct public opinion as far as possible, in order to place the whole subject in a clear and comprehensive form, so that common-sense co-operation may be aroused, and an active interest taken by all classes of the community, to stay, as far as possible, the alarming spread of consumption, the "white plague."

For many years medical opinion was divided as to the communicability of tuberculosis, but we are all contagionists now, since the remarkable discovery of Dr. Koch, in 1882, that consumption of the lungs is caused by the introduction of a living germ, the bacillus tuberculosis, into the system of a previously healthy person. To-day his theory that tuberculosis is a *communicable* and *preventable* disease is accepted and verified, two facts which can not be too strongly impressed on the public mind. Heredity was the accepted opinion for many years, exercising a soothing influence on some by the prospect of escape from consumption. Nothing is more certain or conclusive than that no one does, or can, inherit consumption. The offspring of consumptive parents receive the infection from without, before they can become consumptives, thus giving fresh hope and spirit to the parents known to be consumptive.