

CANADIAN OUT-DOOR LIFE.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE NATIONAL SANITARIUM ASSOCIATION OF CANADA FROM THEIR OFFICES, 28 ADELAIDE STREET W. (SATURDAY NIGHT BUILDING), TORONTO, CAN.

A MAGAZINE devoted to the gospel of out-door life in the treatment of tuberculosis and the value of fresh air and hygienic living for everyone.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 a year to any point in Canada, United States or within the postal union. Single copies, 10 cents.

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28 ADELAIDE ST. WEST (Saturday Night Building) - - - TORONTO, CAN.

"The Black Idol."

UNDER the title "The Black Idol," M. Laurent Tailhade contributes to the *Mercure de France* a striking article on the alarming increase of the morphine habit in France and other

Western countries. After disposing of some misconceptions, such as that morphia produces dreams or visions, whereas its chief primary effect is an extraordinary pleasurable stimulation of the wakeful imagination, the writer (as quoted in the *London Tribune*) speaks of some of the orgies to which the cult of the "elixir of death" has given rise in Paris. The son of a banker is named as having died in a hideous lodging-house of the Fauborg St. Honoré, after having squandered twenty fortunes, at the end of eight days of uninterrupted morphinisation. It is, however, far from the case that all the maniacs of this kind are members of aristocratic clubs or wealthy demi-mondaines like a certain "Queen of the Sahara," as to whom Dr. Bérillon has published his observations. Morphine has, M. Tailhade declares, fewer poets among its victims than alcohol, but more politicians. Dr. Loveau saw General

Boulanger make an injection in the Elysée Gardens in 1887 at the moment of the Schoebelé incident. Prince Bismarck only spoke in the Reichstag after having injected a fairly large dose, and towards the end of his life he used his favorite drug largely. Guy de Maupassant, maniac at once of morphia, ether, and cocaine, joined symptoms of general paralysis with toxic delirium in the asylum where he ended his life so miserably. And well-informed persons state that Dr. Babinski submitted the illustrious Charcot to daily injections of several centigrammes of morphine during the last months of his life." Alphonse Daudet was another imminent victim. Most of the houses that pretend to cure the habit are either conducted on the lines of a casino, the patients having abundant liberty to obtain illicit supplies of the drug, or are something very like private prisons, where suicide is not unusual. There are, however, a few sanatoria where, in a month of severe restriction, the victim is weaned of his fatal predilection, and real cures are effected.

—*Public Opinion.*

AN APPEAL FROM FAR-OFF MANITOBA

REV. W. R. JOHNSON, Killarney, Man. There is a young man here who is suffering from consumption. He came to this country from England a year ago last June, and has been living on a farm until the beginning of the winter, when he had to give up through failing strength. His money is all done, and he is owing a board bill since January 1st. It seems foolish for him to stay where he is, but he is not able to go anywhere for treatment without funds. Our church is taking steps to help him, but it seems to me it would be more practical if the money raised for him could send him to some institution like yours, where there is hope of his being permanently cured.