

years to get it, and because of my habit of announcing what it is they refuse to give it. The maternity death rate is much lower in the rural districts, in the towns and villages, than in the cities.

A service which I regard as extremely important is the provision by our provincial government of a travelling clinic for tuberculosis; it also has a free clinic in all our hospitals which diagnoses cases of tuberculosis and of venereal diseases. In my opinion people should be required to get a certificate of health before they are married. I know of many instances where a tubercular patient has gone away to get married; I know also of not a few instances where patients suffering from other contagious diseases, including venereal diseases, have got married. These things are disgusting; there should be some way to prevent them, by requiring a certificate from the superintendent of the hospital or some other doctor, after an X-ray has been taken, guaranteeing the patient's freedom from the disease. This would mean much to our civilization; it would keep many people out of our asylums and prevent other serious consequences.

Mr. D. G. ROSS (Middlesex East): I have been deeply interested in the debate that has taken place this afternoon. I followed carefully the remarks of the mover of the resolution (Mr. McIvor) and what was said by the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden). One could sense the view that would be taken by the hon. member for Fort William, who moved the resolution, inasmuch as he is a fisher of men. He kept his argument on that plane and I do not think it did him any harm. I was greatly taken by the remarks of the hon. member for St. Boniface. There is no question about it, he has made a great study of this whole problem and he speaks from a wealth of experience as well as from his heart. He left a deep impression on me, and, I believe, on the house.

Like the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth), I lack the necessary equipment to speak from a medical point of view; but I wish to tell a story about one disease in Canada, a story that may encourage a good many people. I am going to discuss briefly a subject that has never, to any extent, occupied the attention of this house. It has received scant attention, not because it is not of vital importance but because, since it deals with a matter of public health, it is primarily a responsibility of the provinces. I refer to the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. In Ottawa, the federal Department of Health and the Canadian Tuberculosis

Association undertake the collection, correlation and publication of statistics bearing upon this subject, and upon these statistics I wish to base my few remarks.

I first became interested in tuberculosis while visiting the Queen Alexandra sanatorium situated on the outskirts of London, Ontario, and in my constituency of Middlesex East. This sanatorium, one of the largest in Canada, and probably one of the largest on the north American continent, houses 600 patients in all stages of the disease. Such a large concentration of his fellow citizens brings home forcibly to the visitor the seriousness and extent of this malady. His Excellency, Earl Grey, at one time Governor General of Canada, dedicated the Queen Alexandra sanatorium on April 5, 1910, but in studying the history of the institution we must go back a few years. In 1908 the late Sir Adam Beck and Lady Beck, realizing the urgent need of providing some means of caring for those suffering from tuberculosis, stressed the importance of a sanatorium as a centre from which to combat the disease in that district, and under Sir Adam's leadership some twenty prominent citizens of London were instrumental in organizing in 1909 the London Health Association. The board of directors as elected at the first meeting were: President, the Hon. Adam Beck; Vice-President, Mr. J. B. Smallman; and Honorary Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. H. E. Gates, with seventeen directors.

There followed the establishment of clinics and the examination of contact cases. Many children were found to have been exposed to the disease, and the question of caring for them presented a serious problem. It was not safe to put them with adult patients; for some were suffering from the disease in an advanced form. Certainly a preventorium for children was urgently needed. The London Health Association, discharging the heavy duty of the sanatorium, asked the members of the Women's Sanatorium Aid Society to assist them by raising the sum of \$10,000 for the erection of a building. The society was given three years in which to raise the fund; but they worked so successfully that it was raised in fourteen months, and in June, 1914, the preventorium, with beds for thirty children, was officially opened by Sir John Gibson, lieutenant-governor of Ontario.

Then came the world war. The first soldier patient was admitted to the sanatorium in 1915. By the end of the following year the number of those being treated was fifty-one, and the buildings soon became crowded to