

nection with these discussions it may be remarked that dissensions amongst the Commissioners constitute no argument for abolishing the Harbour Board, as differences of opinion are universal in public bodies.

#### A LADY PHYSICIAN ON HEREDITY.

Mrs. T. C. Edwards, M.D., a lady physician associated with the Travelers' Insurance Company has favoured us with a copy of a paper from her pen, on "Tuberculosis, Heredity, Predisposition, Infection," in which strong ground is taken in favour of contagion or infection. The paper is rich in statistics and quotations from eminent medical experts who sustain this position. The analyses and investigations made by Laennec and Cornet, of Paris. Zwich, Hammond, Meech, Whiting, Huntinel, Comby, Epstein, Klebs, Froebelins, Gardner, Klep, De Renzi, Max Wolff, Deutsch, Lendet, Squire, Kuss, Meyers, Marsh, Emminghouse, Sprague, and other distinguished medical and actuarial authorities, support the contention that heredity is wholly insufficient to account for more than a small percentage of cases of tuberculosis.

Actuary Whiting in 1873 reported on 1945 declined cases from all causes, whose history he obtained for 5 years after rejection, and found 75 deaths from tuberculosis, not quite four per cent. Four hundred and seventy cases declined *solely* on account of tubercular family history, including parents, brothers and sisters, with 12 deaths from tuberculosis, or not quite 3 per cent., after 5 years. Another group of 381 cases declined on account of tubercular family history, and after five years 17 deaths from tuberculosis, or only 4.5 per cent. The two groups give 851 cases of tubercular family history and, after five years, 29 tubercular deaths; the other 822 escaped the heredity up to that period.

Max Wolff, after some years of observation, says that it is his opinion that the cases of so-called congenital tuberculosis have been acquired by infection after birth. Epstein observed that tuberculous mothers, notwithstanding emaciation to a high degree, bring forth, as a rule, healthy and sound children, and in exceptional cases of feebleness at birth, such children recover perfectly when properly fed. Klebs declares that the transmission of tuberculosis from an infected mother belongs to the rarest occurrences, if at all, and of which there is no proof. Before the discovery of the bacillus Brockendahl declared: "We may not conceal the fact that pathological experiment has compelled us to recognize in tuberculosis an infectious disease, and to surrender the view of heredity, even in individual cases." Ribbart, in a report to the Academy, says, "that while we must all

admit that a large number of interesting studies may be utilized as points of support for the possibility of congenital transmission of tuberculosis, still, strict proof has not yet been produced in favour of congenital human phthisis." Bernstein forcibly says "the heredity of the germ does not exist in tuberculosis." As scientific investigations show that one third of all mankind are, or have been, affected with phthisis, it would be a marvel indeed if no trace of the disease could be found in the family history of a tuberculous person. The paper before us is a very superior specimen of the art of presenting a mass of scientific data in a brief space and readable form. As tuberculosis is caused by bacilli the question arises: "Is the dogma that we can inherit a germ tenable, or that the children of tubercular parents (one or both) are predestined to acquire the bacilli? Or is not the formula of Bernheim the one to accept; first, the heredity of the germ does not exist in tuberculosis; second, the predisposition of the constitution is not more special to tuberculosis than to any other diathetic disease; third, all cases of tuberculosis are contracted by contagion."

#### ROYAL PROGRESS THROUGH ONTARIO.

On Wednesday last the Prince and Princess concluded their week's tour through Ontario. Commencing at Toronto it has been one continuous ovation from the Queen City to Niagara Falls, St. Catherine's, Hamilton, Brampton, Woodstock, Paris, Berlin, Guelph, London, then, returning homewards, all the towns on Grand Trunk Railway to Kingston, thence down the river through the Thousand Islands to Brockville and eastwards to this City, where the Royal pair passed over Victoria Bridge that was opened by the King in 1861. Toronto deserves unstinted praise for the splendid reception given there to its Royal visitors. We decline to admit any superiority over this City in its decorations. But Toronto was the more fortunate in three respects, first, in having no such pall thrown over its enthusiasm as the death of the President cast over the rejoicings in this City; second, in having been selected by the authorities as the scene for a military pageant unprecedented in Canada; and, thirdly, in having made more appropriate arrangements for a popular display through and by which the loyalty of the people at large of all classes could be demonstrated before the eyes of the Prince and Princess. They saw Toronto in all its glory of hunting and illuminations, and they saw also the vast bulk of the Torontonians, and heard their hurrahs stretching out for miles, both in daylight and in the flashing lights at night. They met the people at a public concert attended by 5,000 auditors, and they personally greeted over 2,000 citizens of both sexes who paid their loyal respects to them at the City Hall. More, they listened for some time to a chorus made