

present on the bark of trees. In a forest, such wounds are very numerous, branches continually break off, woodpeckers make holes in stems in their hunt for trunk borers, boring beetles themselves puncture the bark, and there may be many other causes. Experience shows that open wounds are dangerous in plants, as they are in animals. Every surgeon recognizes the dangers attending upon wounds in animals, and, before the days of antiseptic treatment, the dangerous, and often fatal, results of operations were due, in many cases, to the infection of wounds by germs from the air. So with unattended wounds of trees. They may easily become infected with fungus spores or other disease germs, and with fatal results.

From these observations, it is evident in which direction salvation lies. And, if the Commission of Conservation would institute some method of inspection of forest reserves and plantations, it would be one of the most important steps in the direction of conservation of one of the most important natural resources of Canada.

In concluding my address I wish to make a few remarks on the relation of insects to forest tree diseases. My colleague, Dr. Hewitt, who will address you on problems of injurious insects of forest trees, will deal with them from the entomologist's point of view. I only wish to say that frequently one may observe fungi like *Polyporus volvatus* growing on branches and trunks of trees in a peculiar sort of arrangement. On careful examination, it has generally been discovered that the fruiting bodies of this fungus issue from the punctures in the bark caused by some bark or trunk-boring beetle. For this reason it is very evident that unless war is declared against the noxious insects, the plant pathologist cannot possibly suggest cures or prevention of diseases caused by fungi which gain an entrance through wounds caused by insects. I conclude my address by showing you some lantern illustrations which will bring home to you the urgent necessity of protecting our forests from the smaller and larger organisms that annually cause great losses, which, if expressed in figures, would amount to a surprisingly large sum.

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After Mr. Güssow's paper, Dr. James Mills asked: Are these methods of fighting disease applicable to forests?

Mr. Güssow: Experience in other countries has taught that such is the case, but it is necessary to have a system of inspection such as they have in Germany. The forests are divided into certain districts and each district is inspected annually by officials who