

to be added to the loss to the country due to this disease. We have, then, a grand total of at least \$42,000,000 as the loss caused by tuberculosis.

It is to lessen this loss that we make our appeal to the Federal and Provincial Governments to do something substantial for the public weal. A grant of, say, \$1,000,000 a year in aid of efforts to prevent and cure would do a vast amount of good, and would yield a splendid return on the outlay.

PUBLIC SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION.

When new undertakings come into operation there is usually a flourish of trumpets. The inspection of the public schools in Toronto proved no exception to this general rule. Within a few days after the appointment of the medical inspectors the lay press began to contain reading items about the large number of children who were found to be diseased.

In one of these reading items the public was informed that there were so many children in need of medical and surgical treatment that the hospital could not take any more till 1st April, and that the dental college could not handle any more cases of bad teeth until 1st September.

We have been looking into this subject somewhat, and feel disposed to state that there is too much of the alarmist cry in some of what is reaching the public through the press. We hope this will speedily cease, and that the medical inspection will go on as a matter of routine through the proper channels.

We have heard of instances where an attempt has been made to induce patients to go to certain parties for treatment. This must not be tolerated for a single moment. The destitute poor child should be sent to some institution; but all others should be sent to their own family physician. He is the one who should advise as to where and by whom the child should be treated.

The moment the inspectors interfere with the family rights in having their children treated by their own choice, or in trying to secure practice for themselves or their specialist friends, that moment public confidence and the good-will of the medical profession will be lost.

We have nothing but good words to say for the principle of medical inspection of schools. We believe that the money so used will be well spent, but there must be no interference with the freedom of choice by the children and the parents of the physicians or surgeons who shall take care of the cases. Care must be taken that the charities be not taxed with the cure of those who are able to pay.