

"Carelessness" in doing the ordinary things about the house is the chief cause of a great many fires; and for this unnecessary waste—men, women and children appear to be equally culpable.

While "Cleanliness is next to Carefulness in the Prevention of Fire" it is our habits that first need correction. The change in our mode of life is one of the serious problems that now confront us. We must change our thoughts and our actions so as to effectively change our *careless habits*. These habits appear to have become in-grown with our very nature. Witness, for instance, the way in which lighted matches and cigarette butts are thrown around. When we succeed in changing our careless habits, the tax for fire waste of the country will be greatly reduced.

As a matter of patriotism it is a duty that we owe to our country and humanity at large to prevent destruction of life and property by fire. There are more than four times as many people burned to death every year in Canada as are killed on steam and electric railways.

Besides amending one's habits of carelessness, much can be done by the individual to eradicate the terrible fire waste that is impoverishing our country. "Example is better than precept"—the removal of fire menaces and unnecessary hazards in one's home, barn, store or factory can be easily done; after being thus forearmed, one would feel fortified to suggest to others "to go and do likewise."

The power of suggestion is remarkable, and thus we may perhaps, often unconsciously, teach the doctrine of "Fire Prevention" and radiate an influence for good that is widespread and most effective.

It is desirable that every person should enlist in the army of "Fire Preventionists," especially women, who might well direct their efforts towards the education of the children on fire prevention lines.

When one member is injured all members of the human body suffer with it; so it is with the destruction of our homes, barns, factories, and resources by fire—we *all suffer*. Medical science teaches us that certain diseases are caused by certain bacteria and the only way to get rid of the disease is to attack the microbes by sterilization. We must pursue the same course if we are going to reduce the number of fires. We must eradicate the cause—by amending our careless habits and keeping our premises free from accumulations of combustible rubbish, etc.