

Sanatoria News and Comment

DOCTORS HARRY JAMES and J. S. PRITCHARD have been appointed to the Medical Staff of the National Sanitarium Association, the former as assistant to the Physician-in-Chief of the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium, and the latter to the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives. The resident medical staff of the Muskoka Institution now consists of C. D. Parfitt, M. D., M.R.C.S., L. R. C.P.; W. B. Kendall, M.D.C.M., L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; J. K. M. Gordon, M. D. and Doctors James and Pritchard.

Waterloo County Council has passed a sympathetic resolution in response to a request from Oxford County Council asking that the several counties within a given district unite in establishing a hospital for indigent consumptives. A committee was appointed to co-operate with committees from other districts. A step in this direction was taken in 1904, when ex-mayor Radford, of Galt, was a member of Waterloo County Council, but nothing concrete or actual has so far developed. One interesting commentary is found in the fact that when Galt, the home of Dr. Radford, was proposed as a suitable place for the hospital, the newspapers and people protested, almost as one man, against the proposal. This sentiment, strongly entertained in all localities, must always operate against the establishment of county sanatoria. No one knows better than the trustees of the National Sanitarium Association, the leaders in Canada in the erection of Sanatoria, what this prejudice means. It causes one to pause and enquire, whether all things considered, large provincial institutions like those in Muskoka and Weston, thoroughly equipped and appointed, do not most completely meet the needs of the case.

About \$65,000 of the proposed \$100,000 for the erection of a sanatorium for consumptives at Fish Lake, B. C. has been subscribed.

In any consideration of the consumptive problem in Canada it is to be remembered that during its five years history not a single applicant for admission to the Muskoka Free

Hospital for Consumptives, has ever been refused admission because of his or her inability to pay. The one thousand and more patients that have been admitted to this institution since its doors were opened in April, 1902, have come from every province in the Dominion; over one-half have been entirely free and those who have paid in part for maintenance have averaged less than one-half the actual cost of maintenance to the hospital.

Strong opposition has developed against the proposition to build a hospital for advanced consumptives, on the grounds of the General Hospital, Hamilton. Here again one of the difficulties that surround a solution of this problem shows itself.

Ottawa is moving in the direction of making some provision for its consumptives in the advanced and far-advanced stages of the disease.

\$35,000 has been raised towards the erection of sanatoria for consumptives for Province of Manitoba.

Texas has adopted drastic, and it may be said, almost inhuman methods to drive the consumptives from the state. Twenty consumptives were driven from the hospital of San Antonio, where they have been treated for many months. All of them were public charges and five of them have only a few weeks to live with the best of care. Things are different in Canada.

A prominent Chicago physician, basing his prediction on the decrease of the last few years in the mortality from tuberculosis, asserts that in a quarter of a century the ravages of the disease will be practically stayed.

The new buildings of the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives, that will give accommodation for about twenty additional patients, are being pushed ahead by the contractors. Heavy blasting of rock had to be undertaken before the foundations could be placed. The building is to cost \$15,000, with only \$8,000 provided for—again a work of faith of the trustees of the National Sanitarium Association.

HEED THEIR PITIFUL CRY.

In different parts of this issue of CANADIAN OUT-DOOR LIFE, we publish letters of distress from those seeking admission to the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives. To what extent the management can help the needy consumptive, and how much he needs our help, depends on the contributions that come to hand from week to week. Just now the hospital bank account is heavily over drawn. Who will help? Everybody can help some. Contributions may be sent to Sir Wm. R. Meredith, Kt., Chief Justice, Osgoode Hall, Toronto, or W. J. Gage, Esq., 84 Spadina Ave., Toronto.