

decade; to extend also to that organization our sympathy for the loss sustained by them in the fire at Weston.

"Under amendments of the Ontario Public Health Act, physicians are now required to make returns to the chief health officer of "all diseases dangerous to the public health." This includes tuberculosis, and the statistics thus obtained should prove useful to the health authorities in working for the control of this disease. The Ontario Government is to be congratulated for its part in educating the public in the prevention of tuberculosis by the traveling exhibit under the Provincial Board of Health. This has been in a large number of towns and villages during the winter, where lantern demonstrations have been given and lectures delivered. The Provincial Government has encouraged the erection and maintenance of county and municipal sanatoria by its generous treatment of such institutions (\$3 per week, instead of \$1.50 per week, being now set aside for the maintenance of those patients not paying above \$4.90). As will be seen in Dr. Bruce Smith's report, 1,372 patients were admitted to the special hospitals or sanatoria for treatment and care for the tuberculous during the past year, besides the many treated in the various local dispensaries in the province. It is worthy of mention also that the public school hygiene has now a chapter upon tuberculosis.

"Throughout the whole Dominion, therefore, interest in the subject has been steadily growing. The question was freely discussed at more than one of the sittings of the Conservation Commission, and we hope that through the Commission the Federal Government will see its way to give yet further material support to the campaign against tuberculosis. Much literature has been sent out by our own association during the year. The new posters have been printed as well as the revised leaflet, of which many thousands have already been distributed.

"Eight thousand of our annual reports in English have been distributed, and also 2,500 reports in French.

"The question of setting aside a special tuberculosis day has again been brought before the notice of the executive, and will be considered.

"We are pleased to note that our presi-

dent, Professor Adami, and Dr. Prevost have been appointed by the Dominion Government, and Dr. Hodgetts by the Conservation Commission, as delegates to the seventh international congress, to be held in Rome from the 24th to the 30th of September, 1911.

"The lectures, 55 in number, delivered during the year by our secretary have, as a rule, been largely attended, as have those also of our French lecturers, Dr. Valin and Dr. Bourgeois. These, together with a list of the new societies organized, are appended to this report.

"Finally, our association desires to thank the press for their hearty co-operation and help in the campaign for which this association stands."

That all these efforts are proving useful cannot now be doubted. The mortality from tuberculosis is declining in at least one province, Ontario—as pointed out by Dr. Porter in the March issue of this Journal. In the decade preceding 1899 the death rate from this disease was on the increase until in that year the figure amounted to 3,405 (a rate of 1.4 per 1,000 living estimated population, or, in other words, 11.8 per cent. of the total deaths.)

During that time there were no institutions for the tuberculous in the province, no dispensaries, no special visiting nurses, no educational agencies at work, no general information regarding the prevention of this disease. In 1899 there was only one institution; now there are 12 of them in the province, and other projected; four dispensaries, and an increasing number of visiting nurses, while a general campaign is being carried on. In 1908 the deaths from tuberculosis were 2,511 (a rate of 1.1 per 1,000, or 7.6 per cent. of the total deaths).

We think it is only fair to assume then, that this decline from 11.8 per cent. to 7.6 per cent. is due, at least in some measure, to the efforts already put forth to stamp out this disease. And if so, we feel justified in looking for a still further decrease in the death rate, if more accommodation could be provided for the tuberculous, especially the advanced cases, and still more done to enlighten the public regarding the means of preventing this widespread but controllable disease.