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EDITORIAL.

The White Plague.

The statistics regarding the spread of consumption, recently issued from the Ontario Registrar's Department, under the direction of Dr. Hodgetts, Provincial Medical Health Officer, must surely bring to their senses, with a jolt, those—and there are many such—who fail to recognize the deadliness that lies in slighting the precautions which must be taken wherever there is a case of tuberculosis. Much has been said and much more written in regard to the necessity for these, and still there are those who will, without reserve, kiss a patient suffering from the disease, and there are houses in which, notwithstanding the fact that one of the inmates is suffering from this menace to the safety, not only of the family, but of the neighborhood, not a single effort is being taken to prevent the infection from claiming as many victims as it may choose.

This apathy, in a country whose people are supposed to be "intelligent," is incomprehensible. There seems to be something insidious in the advance of the disease which blinds people to its danger, and yet, for many it would be safer many times over to kiss a patient afflicted with smallpox than one afflicted with consumption, or to take up one's abode in a pest-house rather than in one of those unventilated, unsanitary homes in which the dry sputum is permitted to float about on the air when and where it will. There is a possibility that the smallpox may be of the chicken-pox species; a confirmed attack of tuberculosis is likely to be a much more serious matter.

According to Dr. Hodgetts, the number of deaths due to consumption in Ontario during the thirty-three years in which the record has been kept, amounts to 75,918. Now, note this, the deaths due to all other infectious diseases put together aggregate only 66,240, or nearly 10,000 less. The other returns are as follows: Typhoid, 14,558; scarlet fever, 10,372; diphtheria and croup, 31,486; whooping cough, 5,513; measles, 3,213; smallpox, 1,044; typhus fever, 14.

Now this frightful preponderance of mortality on the side of consumption must appear, on the very face of it, to be due to greater degree of carelessness exercised in regard to this catchable disease. When smallpox, scarlet fever or diphtheria appear in a vicinity, every precaution is taken; houses are placarded and isolated, disinfectants are used unsparingly, and people pass by with bated breath. Of the indifference manifested in regard to consumption there is no need to speak.

Until there is a change in this respect, we cannot hope to stamp the disease out of our land and save our people, and the sooner the country awakens to the fact the better. There is no need for "heartlessness" in the matter; no need of putting the patient off by himself, far from friends and the tender care that can be met with only in the home; no need for placarding the place and denying one's neighbors entrance; but there is need for exercising every precaution that will tend to prevent the infectious bacilli from passing from the patient to those about him, and only the ceaseless vigilance of the patient himself and those who have to do with him can accomplish this end. In exercising this vigilance, our people, on the whole, seem to need education.

In the "Health in the Home" Department of the June 30th issue of the "Farmer's Advocate," there appeared a most excellent treatise on this subject, and we feel that we cannot

do better than refer our readers back to it, not only those who are having any actual experience with this dread disease, but all others, for no one can say how soon he may become the feeding-ground in which the deadly microbe may begin its work—deadly, but not invincible—for consumption, if taken at the right time and in the right way, may be conquered, and it is a matter well worthy of attention for each of us to be fully aware of the steps which must be taken in fighting against it. Forewarned is forearmed.

Mr. Chamberlain and the Canadian Farmer.

Hon. Joseph Chamberlain's recent speech at Walbeck Abbey, Eng., is of considerable interest to Canadian farmers, in the light of his proposal to impose a tax of two shillings per quarter upon all kinds of grain coming into Great Britain, with the exception of the Yankee farmer's main cereal corn, which he proposes to admit free. He also proposes to levy a five-per-cent. tariff on meat, dairy products, poultry, eggs, vegetables and fruit. He proposes to impose such a duty upon imported flour as will cause the milling to be done in Britain, and provide the farmer there with the bran and offal for feeding purposes. This speech was delivered to an audience of 12,000 English farmers and farm laborers, whose industry he aims to revive. He said the changes proposed would enable them to reciprocate with the offers that had come from the colonists, and to arrange a closer commercial intercourse "with our children, who are also our best and most profitable customers. They (Britain) would always have to buy a large portion of what they consumed. Why not," he asked, "buy from the friends who stand by us in trial and in stress, and who can supply us as cheaply, rather than from the foreigner?"

Mr. Chamberlain expressed briefly his original idea of giving a preference to colonial food products, but he was careful not to enlarge upon it in the Walbeck Abbey speech, which was intended to encourage the British farmer, though he did not promise him so much enhanced prices as a more secure market. Unfortunately, he did not state definitely in what way he was going to give the colonies preference.

It is very clear that Britain is not disposed to vote for a measure that will make food dearer for the masses. Mr. Chamberlain, a manufacturer, and admittedly the cleverest politician of Great Britain to-day, has found out that there is dissatisfaction as to the country's progress, and has prescribed for the people a sugared pill. Economists differ as to the industrial condition and fiscal policy best suited to Great Britain in the face of hostile tariffs, and that phase of the subject we need not discuss, but, as an observing man, Mr. Chamberlain must know, as any one who has lived or travelled there does, the big handicaps under which the Old Country labors to-day are the heavy consumption of cigarettes and liquor by Old Country people, making so many farm and other laborers ignorant and befuddled, the excessive number of holidays, the tremendous amount of gambling, the devotion to sport, and a too-prevalent opinion that they, the denizens of the British Isles, are "The Chosen People!"

The present Prince of Wales, after his trip around the world, gave utterance to the need of a national awakening, as has Lord Roseberry

time and again. The statesmen, and those Britishers who are honest with themselves, will agree when we say that the great need of that country is a revision of their manner of living and doing business. Mr. Chamberlain proposes to help the British manufacturers. He may manage to keep the home market for them, but he cannot by tariff or law help them capture other markets, unless they produce the class of goods that are in demand. As a proof of our contentions, some time ago, in conversation with one of the partners (a sharp business man, combining the hustle of the Yankee and the solidity of the Englishman) of a large publishing house in Great Britain, he stated that the manufacturers of printing machinery there were away behind the trans-Atlantic manufacturers, and that the young men they employed would rather go to a football match than take a free course of lectures dealing with their work. Today, far too many of the British people at home, including their statesmen and politicians, resemble the parent who did not appreciate the value of his children as compared with the children of others, until he noticed his own receiving attention from other people.

Judged by this speech, Mr. Chamberlain may recognize our attachment to Great Britain, but he does not appreciate the sturdy aspirations of this country, nor its capabilities, nor is it reassuring to the Canadian farmer to find him offering tangible advantage to an alien nation (the U. S.) by offering to admit their corn (maize) free, while he would place duty, more or less, dependent upon a prospective preferential remission, upon the products of the farmers of "Greater Britain," and by tariff would transfer to Great Britain the milling industry which, in the interest of the Canadian farmer, who requires the bran and the offal, the "Farmer's Advocate" desires to see expand upon Canadian soil, where the wheat is grown.

A substantial preference in the world's greatest market (Great Britain) for food products would be of immense advantage to the Canadian farmer. The whole problem is admittedly difficult, and, we believe, can only be solved by such mutual concessions (in which Canada has already led the way) as will tend to develop the trade of Canada and Great Britain, to the advantage of both, each acting freely for themselves.

Will it Pay to Spray?

The results of an orchard-spraying demonstration at Ingersoll, Ontario, as recorded elsewhere in this issue by the representative of the "Farmer's Advocate," will be read with interest, and should be heeded by fruit-growers. The present has been a bad season for apple-scab, and in the unsprayed orchards it was found that not one-fifth of the apples would be graded first-class. Northern Spies were found extremely bad, and Snow apples that were utterly worthless. On the other hand, in the sprayed orchards, the first-class fruit ranged from sixty to ninety per cent., depending on the character of the trees. The work of spraying appears to be taking the direction of power outfits, managed by men who make a specialty of it, like threshing or silo-filling. The operation is not expensive, and is very profitable when results are considered. There is no question about its efficacy. Incidentally, attention was drawn to the imperative need of a better system of marketing, if farmers are to get better returns from their orchards, and an answer to that question seems to be co-operation, which is being tried successfully in a number of places.