

3. But to catch the thief it is necessary first to locate him, and we once more urge upon the governments of the various provinces to lose no time in passing such legislation as will call for the reporting of cases of tuberculosis. We can remember when there was much opposition to the reporting of scarlet fever and diphtheria, but this is now accepted by all as the proper thing to do. It is only a sentimental objection after all. In the United States there is compulsory registration of cases in nearly every large city. When registration becomes recognized as the proper thing to do, then these persons can be furnished with the proper information through the medical health officer or any other way agreed upon; but there must be light upon the subject. Sunlight kills more tubercle bacilli than all the other agencies in the world, and the light of education will prevent more cases than all other means put together.

4. But we must go further than all this. We must act. For the law breaker all civilized countries have been compelled, at great cost, to erect jails and prisons. In like manner, for those who cannot care for themselves the public, either as state or municipality, must step into the breach. No matter what the cost, duty must be done. For the defence of the Empire, we are willing to spend immense sums, and rightly so; but for the safety of the people in the matter of tuberculosis we are stingy enough. We have just pointed out that in deaths alone this disease is costing Canada about \$30,000,000, and perhaps as much more in sickness, and loss of time, and privation to families. It would pay well to spend a few millions to help those who cannot help themselves. *Salus populi suprema lex est.* But this is true prevention as well as amelioration of the unfortunate lot of the poor afflicted ones. On this point hear the words of Professor Adami, of Montreal:

"It must be realized that incurable cases are the most dangerous. They can be rendered harmless when they can be given room apart, when the bed linen can be boiled and sterilized. When these things are not possible, then for the safety of the community the only place for them is in the hospital for incurables. Here, as with the completely indigent early case, I hold that the care of these patients is not a matter for private charity, but devolves upon the state and municipality. The municipality, whether aided by the state or not, is responsible for the care of these, as for all other highly infectious cases."

If any foreign enemy came into the country and destroyed the lives of 12,000 citizens, and seriously wounded about 40,000 more, we would spend every dollar in the treasury and sacrifice many lives in addition in our efforts to drive from our midst the enemy. In the case of tuberculosis we are engaged in a war against a terrible enemy of the human race, but one where the harder we fight it the more lives we save, and in the end the less money we lose.