

CANADIAN OUT-DOOR LIFE.

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE GOSPEL OF OUT-DOOR LIFE
IN THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS, AND THE VALUE
OF FRESH AIR AND HYGIENIC LIVING FOR EVERYONE

VOL. I

TORONTO, CAN., JANUARY, 1907.

NO. 3

Heredity in Tuberculosis. Transmission of the Disease from Parent to Child.

THE accompanying illustration is from a photograph of the elder of two infants born at the Toronto Free Hospital for Consumptives during the month of December. In both cases the mothers were suffering from tuberculosis in an advanced stage, and in both cases are the children as well developed and as healthy as are children born of healthy parents.

Such incidents as these naturally raise the question as to the part played by heredity in the transmission of tuberculosis, and as the belief that the disease is hereditary is more or less prevalent it may be of interest to give briefly some account of the part played by inheritance in this disease.

The belief in the hereditary transmission of tuberculosis rests upon two main factors—(1) The great frequency of the disease in early life and (2) the localization of tuberculous lesions in children. It is true that the mortality from tuberculosis in the first years of life is relatively high. Of 2,576 autopsies made on children 27.8 per cent of those who died in the first year were tuberculous, and of 298 tuberculous children dying at an age ranging from a few days to 12 years 147 had bone or joint tu-

berculosis and only 8 had any evidence of visceral disease. Against these facts, however, it is to be noticed that the percentage of cases of congenital tuberculosis is extremely small.

Of 726 consecutive autopsies in the New York Infant Asylum, tuberculosis was found in only 58 or 8 per cent. of the cases; 6 per cent. of the deaths were due to tuberculosis and in 2 per cent. the children died from other diseases.

Another circumstance which has contributed to the belief in the hereditary transmission of the disease is the frequency with which it is met in the families of those affected. In 100 cases Williams found 48.4 per cent. with family predisposition, 12 per cent. with parental, 1 per cent. with

grand parental and 31.4 per cent. with collateral heredity. Of 250 cases in which Solly made very careful inquiries on this point there were 28.8 per cent. with parental, 7.6 per cent. with grand-parental, and 19.2 per cent. with a history of collateral heredity. Of 427 cases at the John Hopkins Hospital their were 53 in which the mother had had tuberculosis, 52 in which the father had been affected, and 105 in which a brother or sister had had the dis-



"MIKE"—INFANT BOY BORN AT TORONTO FREE HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTIVES, DECEMBER, 1906.