

behalf by society as a loan to be repaid when they are restored to health and are capable once again of engaging in profitable work. But more and more am I convinced that the crux of the problem lies in the treatment of the indigent and incurable consumptives. Isolate these and forthwith the main source of infection is removed from our midst. Permit them to remain in the bosom of their families, to live and sleep in the same rooms with other members of the poverty-stricken household, expectorating and discharging the bacilli broadcast, weakened by the disease to the point that they no longer have the energy or even the inclination to protect those around them, and they become the centres from which the whole family and succeeding tenants of the rooms become infected.

Not all our provincial governments have a Cobalt behind them, and are so wealthy and far-seeing as to afford \$4.50 per week for the isolation and care of these cases as has the Ontario government. But here, in the Province of Quebec, as I have pointed out more than once, the economical conditions are such that we are provided with a means of solving this problem. Thanks to the self-sacrificing zeal of the good Sisters of Providence, and of other religious communities, it is in our power to isolate these incurable cases to sustain and keep them in relative comfort at one-third the cost of ordinary hospital patients. Whereas the ordinary hospital patient in our general hospitals throughout this continent costs the community from \$30 to \$36 a month, the Sisters are ready and willing to undertake their care at from \$10 to \$12 a month. They are willing to take and care for all sorts and conditions, for Catholics and Protestants alike. And nobly have they demonstrated their broad catholicity. This action on their part brings the care of patients of this order within the sphere of practical politics. And our mayor, whose unavoidable absence from this meeting we all regret, and our city council, here in Montreal, and, I may add, our citizens as a body, are thankful to the devoted Sisters for their aid and are glad to accept it. At our next annual meeting I trust that we shall be able to report that Montreal has taken this notable step forward, the surest step toward rapid reduction of our tuberculosis morbidity and death rate that can be taken.

How, it may be asked, can the Sisters possibly undertake the work at this low cost? The answer to this first question is simple. The Sisters devote themselves and their lives to the service of God and of their fellows without thought of gain, and as a consequence the cost of service is reduced to what is verily an inconceivable minimum. Whereas a fully trained hospital nurse to maintain herself requires not less than fifty dollars a month or \$600 a year—and, as the cost of living goes, this is far from being an excessive sum—I have been informed by a dignitary