

Consumption exerts its baneful influence here as it does in most climates; yet is Canada a country favourable, at certain seasons, and under certain circumstances, to an arrest of the disease. It is admitted that temperature does not alone exert that marked controlling influence on the progress of phthisis which has been long attributed to it. We have come to regard, as the most desirable atmospherical condition for the consumptive, the condition of dryness; and next to dryness, equability of temperature—uniform for long periods, and not disturbed by sudden or frequent changes. These conditions are met with in various parts of Canada, especially in the higher and western portions. This question, however, is too vast to permit me to more than glance at it in this short paper.

I said a moment ago we had no disease peculiar to Canada. There is a disease, however, insignificant in extent, though heartless in quality, which is met with on the Miramichi river in one of our Maritime provinces. I allude to the little colony of lepers confined to the lazaretto of Tracadie on the New Brunswick coast, where the inmates are destined to a life of isolation. The disease is not indigenous, but was brought there by a couple of shipwrecked sailors many years ago.

The healthiness of the climate of Canada may be fairly computed from the tables of life insurance. British companies charge a less premium on Canadian than on British lives up to the age of 37; after that period the balance is the other way. British underwriters recognize, and with wisdom, a severer strain on the human constitution in Canada than in Great Britain.

If the health of the climate and other conditions may be gathered from the natural increase of the population, then is Canada one of the healthiest of countries. I might for the moment admit, with Mr. Sadler, that the prolificness of human beings, otherwise similarly circumstanced, varies inversely as their numbers; or, in other words, that the prolificness of a given number of marriages will, all