

to think of the work constantly going on at the outposts of coast and frontier. But it is the diseases we have always with us, the well known preventable diseases, that produce the greatest destruction of human life, and swell the total of the general suffering and distress in all parts of the country.

Some of these, such as enteric fever, scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria, are left in this country to Provincial responsibility. But there are some other diseases and some other points as to which it seems to me the national power can best be exercised.

Tuberculosis, for instance. This is a disease widespread throughout the whole Dominion, and it cannot be kept within municipal or provincial bounds, if only because the eastern sufferer is so apt to seek a health resort in the west. The annual death rate from tuberculosis is so high, and the financial loss to the country from these deaths and from the illness which precedes them is so grave a national matter, that it seems to me it should not be left to the separate actions of the various provinces but should be at least co-ordinated and arranged by the national Government. Sanatoria are good in their way, and would be better if they could be kept for the reception of incipient cases, to be discharged cured to make room for others. The beginning cases, however, are not those that appeal most loudly to the sympathy of the onlooker. And too often under pressure political, personal, religious and charitable, the few beds of the sanatorium are promptly filled with incurable cases, and so their highest mission fails. The same amount of money spent in dispensaries, day camps, and the dissemination of pamphlets, leaflets and other literature on the prevention of the disease, would reach and benefit hundreds for each one the sanatorium can aid. The enforcement of notification of tuberculosis also, with the appointment of inspectors to follow up each case where the visiting physician cannot or does not do so, seems to me essentially a national work and responsibility.

The prevention of smallpox also should be distinctly a matter of national sanitation. We are not only threatened with it from the Orient, from Europe, from the United States, and from South America, but from England also, owing to her retrograde legislation nullifying compulsory vaccination by the admission of conscientious objections, and yet not putting smallpox on the list of her quarantinable diseases.

Compulsory vaccination in infancy and compulsory re-vaccination in adolescence should be the national law. By such laws smallpox has been made to practically disappear from Germany. This disease is unknown in her army. In the entire German Empire during the whole of 1906 there were but 26 cases of smallpox and 5 deaths, and these cases