

dividual family) at only \$1,000 per year, would mean \$300,000,000 uselessly spent in caring for people afflicted with a disease that might have been prevented or cured. If these 150,000 adults, a large number have been married and in many instances leave either widow or orphans depending upon public support. The annual maintenance of these widows and orphans must, of course, also run into the millions. We have thus an annual expenditure of well nigh \$400,000,000. Yet this by no means represents all the actual loss to the community from tuberculosis. Our social economists tell us that between the ages of 16 and 45 every adult life with an average earning capacity represents an asset of \$5,000 to the community. Now, as two-thirds of all deaths from tuberculosis in adults occur between these ages, we have an additional loss of \$500,000,000. Thus, the actual direct and indirect loss caused by deaths from tuberculosis in the United States amounts annually to something like \$900,000,000, and this amount we spend on a preventable and curable disease!

"We must also bear in mind the fact that we have at least eight times 150,000 tuberculosis adults, for it is well known that for every individual who dies of tuberculosis there are eight living with the disease, still up and about, and the majority of them with an opportunity of spreading infection. Besides these, there are 400,000 to 600,000 tuberculous children. By reason of lack of open-air schools, preventoria, sanatoria, special hospitals, and horticultural, agricultural, and industrial colonies, the vast majority of nearly 2,000,000 tuberculous individuals continue the chain of infection and keep up our fearful morbidity and mortality at an expense of \$900,000,000 per annum.

"To carry out the program I suggest will not cost us \$900,000,000 a year. If at first it should even approach this vast sum, within a very few years the expenditure as well as the morbidity and mortality from tuberculosis will be reduced to a minimum."

The twelfth part of this would represent Canada's bill. And yet so little done to prevent it!

GAS POISONING.

Professor Leonard Hill, the eminent physiologist, gave an address before the Medical Society of London on the poisonous gases used by the Germans. This address appears in the *British Medical Journal* for 4th December. The treatment of this subject by Professor Hill is both exhaustive and scholarly. He points out that some gases, such as nitrogen and hydrogen, cut off the supply of oxygen by diluting it below a