

This disease produces more than twice as many deaths as small-pox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough and typhoid fever put together; in industrial occupations it is the cause of nearly one-half of the mortality, and more than half of the invalidism; of all the people who die between the ages of 15 and 60 no less than 37 out of every hundred die of this disease; 37 out of every hundred die at an age when their lives are of most value to the nation, the municipality and the home; 37 out of every hundred die of a disease that is contagious, infectious, preventible and curable, especially in the earlier stages; that in the United States causes the death annually of no less than 100,000; that in this Dominion claims each year about 9,000 victims; that in this Province in 1898 caused the death of 3,291—equal in number to more than the three contingents sent to South Africa; that in this fair city each year carries off about 500 of our people. This is why.

Add to this the popular error, that consumption is hereditary and incurable, and you have a picture so dark, the contemplation of which makes the stoutest heart grow faint. To dispel this darkness I am glad to say that the star of hope has risen. Through the discovery of Prof. Koch, some eighteen years ago, and subsequent investigations, it is a generally accepted fact that consumption is produced by a germ entering the body from without, mainly by the inhalation of dried and pulverized particles of sputa floating in the air, and by food, especially milk from tuberculous cattle. In the later stages of the disease millions of these germs are said to be thrown off daily in the sputa. That while heredity may predispose the system to the development of the disease, yet until the germ is introduced from without the person, there can be no consumption.

It has also been clearly established that the disease is curable. Science and clinical experience have therefore exploded the popular error referred to. But it is only by a campaign of education that the public mind can be disabused of this deeply seated error. To do this and to check the spread of the disease, and save and prolong the lives of the people is the main object of this Association.

The consensus of medical and public opinion in both Europe and America is that Sanatoria treatment of consumption produces the best results. At the Congress in Berlin, already referred to, all the discourses led up to and culminated in a hearty endorsement of Sanatoria treatment of consumption. In Germany, where compulsory life insurance is in force, where all receiving a wage lower than a certain amount are obliged to be insured, the growth of Sanatoria treatment has been remarkable, owing largely to the action of life insurance companies expending much money in the erection and maintenance of Sanatoria, where they send their insured who are suffering from consumption, finding that, from a financial standpoint, it is economy to prolong the lives of their insured in this way and postpone the day of paying the death claim. That while in 1895 there were only two of such Sanatoria in Germany, at the present time there are over sixty, and more being built each year.

While we find that Sanatoria have been built in various parts of