

MONTREAL ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS AND GENERAL HEALTH LEAGUE

Managing Director's Mid-Year Report to the Board of Directors

The following summary of the work of the Health League for the first half of the year, 1925, is respectfully submitted herewith.

Activities have been directed in accordance with the accepted policy of the League. It is agreed that in health work, there are certain basic things which must first be properly established if the whole work is to be well constructed. It is with this clear understanding that practically our entire energy is given to secure what are considered the fundamentals of health work.

We all know what an appeal there is to everyone in children's work. People want to do things for children who are sick, crippled, or handicapped in any way. It is the right desire and all such efforts are to be greatly commended, both in the good accomplished and in the spirit of its doing. Much of the League's effort will lack such popular appeal, because to a large extent, we deal with things rather than with persons. The reason is that in our endeavour to eliminate disease, we deal with impersonal and non-appealing things, such as impure milk, improper housing, etc.

We record with satisfaction that we have established a friendly understanding with the City Health Department. The Health Officer appreciates that the League's aim is to assist in increasing the efficiency and scope of his department's activities. On our side, we believe that the health of this city depends to a great extent upon the ability of the Health Department to perform its duties in a complete and satisfactory manner, and that our chief function must always be to help secure this efficiency.

We continued our campaign to secure the acceptance of the milk by-law prepared by the Health Department. It is absolutely essential that this city have a pure, safe milk supply. The by-law passed the City Council on July 21st. To whatever extent we were able to help in obtaining for Montreal a pure, safe milk supply, we have justified our existence. In addition to its many other advantages, this safe milk will eliminate one source of tuberculosis in our city, which is something accomplished.

A Housing Committee has been formed in co-operation with other interested agencies. This committee is actively at work, and will later be in a position to support the authorities intelligently in securing any needed housing reforms. That there is need for better housing in this city is realized. As action comes only through a community demand, and on account of the definite relationship between housing and health, we, as a community health agency, share in this piece of work.

We have worked closely with those who, for some time, have done their utmost to secure the early re-opening of the sanatorium for tuberculosis at Sainte Agathe. We record with pleasure that, after months of waiting, the organization for operating the sanatorium is complete, that the necessary repairs are being made and that patients will be received within a few weeks.