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Our Weekly Letter.

(From our own correspondent.)
MONTREAL, March 24th.—Dr. Williams, Managing Director of the National Tuberculosis Association of the United States made some startling statements here lately in reference to consumption. Throughout the entire world tuberculosis is responsible for over 10 per cent. of all the deaths. The disease is chronic, lasting from 3 to 5 years, and there are at least 5 times as many persons living suffering from tuberculosis, who need constant medical care as there are deaths annually, and at least ten times as many persons affected with chronic tuberculosis, as there are annual deaths from the disease. In 1921 there were 107,000 deaths from tuberculosis in the United States approximately 100 out of every 100,000. During the same year, 7,694 persons died in Canada from the disease or 88 out of every 100,000. The deaths in both countries were more numerous among the males at the ratio of 3 to 2.

"It is known that almost every individual is infected with tubercle bacilli in civilized communities by the time he is 15 years of age. The distinction must be made, however, between tuberculous infection and tuberculosis, because persons who may be infected do not necessarily become diseased unless there are predisposing factors. Because one cannot have tuberculosis unless he has already been infected by the bacillus.

"We find there is a marked difference in the amount of tuberculosis in different races; that although the amount of infection may be the same, the amount of disease which develops is much less among the Jews and Italians and much more among the Irish and negroes than exists among the Anglo-Saxon races. There is, therefore a certain racial immunity and there is also a family and individual immunity or as it is commonly called, resistance to disease.

"To predisposing factors causing the disease to develop are primarily, low standards of living, with resulting poor housing and overcrowding, and insufficient food. In addition, long hours of laborious work and exposure to irritating dusts and gases are factors although in certain dusty trades, even although the standard of living is relatively high, the amount of tuberculosis increases and causes a far higher mortality than others. For, in some industries, half the workers die from tuberculosis whereas, in the general mass of the population, only ten per cent. of those diseased die."

Another important factor in the development of the disease was the constant exposure of the individual to repeated doses of tubercle bacilli, bread winners, with the disease, suffering from lowered standard of living which, together with the infection of the father often caused the disease to spread in the family.

Study had shown in certain trades, the death rate was five times higher than in others. "For example, among stone cutters, cigar and tobacco workers, compositors, printers and pressmen the death rate from tuberculosis are frequently over 400 per 1,000 whilst among coal miners, steam railroad workers, farmers and professional men the rates are not higher than 100 per 100,000 workers."

These figures, however, based on the 1900 census in the United States were relatively high; if a study were made to-day the rates might be found to be one-half of those quoted.

Dr. Williams considered there should be more attention paid to the specifications of industry as, on diamonds, it was often found that the disease might have developed in an occupation other than that in which the worker was employed when found to be diseased. "It can be definitely stated, however," he added,

"that workers who are constantly exposed to fine mineral dust, as stone workers, quarrymen and workers engaged in polishing and grinding steel implements, have a death rate from five to ten times higher than other workers and that long hours at low wages or a diminished standard of living makes tuberculosis a definite factor in the death rate.

In his concluding remarks he urged employers to take cognizance of the effects of the disease on their industry through illness of their employees. Much good could be achieved by the installation of sanitary facilities, medical service for the diseased and visiting nurses in industrial establishments.

A memorial to students and members of the staff of Macdonald College who fell during the war is being planned at the college and will be erected at St. Anne de Bellevue as soon as sufficient funds are forthcoming. A committee, consisting of a representative from each department of the college has been formed to raise funds.

Altogether 303 men enlisted from Macdonald College. Of these 35

were members of the staff and 184 were students. The college has already established a memorial scholarship and a bronze tablet has been erected by the Agricultural Almanac Association. The Association has also given \$200 as a nucleus for the fund for the new permanent college memorial.

"Music" Week was a great success. The free concerts given by orchestras, instrumentalists, vocalists clubs, and choirs in the halls of the different hotels, public and school halls throughout the city drew capacity audiences.

The famous Mendelssohn Choir of Toronto, composed of 220 mixed voices, was heard here at the St. Denis Theatre to large audiences. It was remarkable for its great variety in shading and expression. The choir passed its highest test in unaccompanied numbers. Philip King, the musical editor of the Montreal Daily Star in reference to their work, said, the Russians say that a church organ is a confession of weakness, that a choir should not need help from an instrument, or from instrumentalists, and that accompaniments are only useful to hide defects. Certainly no accompaniments are needed by the Mendelssohn Choir, which gives a wonderful demonstration of the expressive possibilities that are to be found in the human voice, en masse.

Choirmasters will naturally be most interested in the Mendelssohn Choir's technical attainments; musicians in general will take satisfaction in fundamental matters of tone, rhythm and phrasing; but the man on the street, who represents the majority and who is not trained to observe such details, will be more impressed by an effect made through direct means of expression, by the choir's power to say something definite without circumlocution, to stir up emotion, to paint a vivid mental picture and to quicken imaginative faculties. That the Mendelssohn Choir did not fail the man on the street last night was evident from the applause. That the Toronto singers were equally successful in their appeal to music-lovers is certain. Then, in the words of the song that children used to raise heavenward on Fletcher's Field last summer, "Everybody happy? Well, I should say!"

It is this power of expression on the part of the choir that makes it unique. Mr. Fricker is expert in matching and weighing tone against words in such a way that the notes of color that he produces in extraordinary. Take, for example, the atmospheric and mystic effect brought out in the "Eriksay Love Lull," arranged by Hugh Robertson, and contrast it with the straightforwardness of the "Men of Harlech" and "Scots Wha Ma"; or think of the scholarly reverence voiced in Mendelssohn's "Judge Me, O God," in contradistinction to primitive appeal to the Russian carnival or the irresistible, rhythmic charm of the Spanish "Sill-vermith." A choir specializing in one particular kind of music might have done one of these things superlatively well; but only a choir that has mounted step by step to the top of the ladder could do them all as convincingly as the Mendelssohn choristers did.

One would expect a society like the Mendelssohn Choir to be thoroughly at home in motets by Palestrina, Bachmannoff and Mendelssohn; one would look for authoritative readings of modern English (Continued on 7th page.)

higher pay for teachers, larger Government grants for instruction, bilingual teaching, consolidation of rural schools and more playgrounds attached to schools. An article could be written on each of the different things advocated, and in a future letter I will deal with the matter, when the correct figures, as regards grants, etc., will be summarized from the Annual Report of the Department of Public Instruction at Quebec.

Two men who participated equally in the same crime, after both being found guilty, were sentenced, one of them being sent to jail for one year, the other being released on a bond of \$1000 to keep the peace for one year. One must have been born under a lucky star for Justice Wilson, whose first case it was, had to follow the usual custom for a judge giving his initial sentence. A few minutes later in the Court of Special Sessions, Judge Cusson handed out a year's sentence to the other. Both prisoners were arrested while attempting to dispose of \$400 worth of butter that they had stolen from a grocery store.

Four firemen were injured and damage to the extent of \$30,000 was caused by fire which gutted the Mountain Street Methodist Church, situated at the corner of Mountain and Torrance Streets, and slightly damaged the home of Rev. H. W. Burnett, the pastor, adjoining the church. The insurance on the church was \$17,000.

Eighty firemen, 6 pumping engines, 12,000 feet of hose, 27 streams of water, 20 ladders reared around the building, dense volumes of smoke covering at times 5 blocks east and west, rushing streams of water which formed a miniature lake 2 feet deep for a block on St. Catherine Street, and viewed by thousands of citizens, were some of the features of a very spectacular fire which completely destroyed Goodwin's furniture warehouse and garage at the corner of University and Burnside here last week. The fire lasted nearly 7 hours, and did damage to furniture and motor trucks to the amount of \$121,000.

The City Council killed daylight saving for good when by a vote of 23 to 11 against the measure. The Aldermanic Committee had based its report on the expressions of opinion it had received from religious and public bodies and individuals, most of which were against daylight saving. The Council upheld the Committee. The funny part of the affair is that the Westmount Council had adopted the measure a few days before. Unless "The Beautiful City" within a larger city, will change by a reconsideration vote, we'll have two different sets of time in Greater Montreal. The railways will, as usual, follow standard time.

According to C. T. Anstey, master of Selwyn House School in an address on "Provincial Education," less than 60 per cent. of Quebec's children between the ages of 7 years 9 months and 12 years 3 months attend school. The total of children of such ages is 550,000 and those attending school 317,000. Mr. Anstey advocated compulsory education,

See the same old faces time and again, "the hardened ones in crime," come before him in the same old way and with the same old charge against them, made Recorder Sample wrathily in sentencing two sinners, and he said:—"For ten years I have been making speeches on this bench and trying to help prisoners, with advice. I do not think I have converted one; indeed, it seems sometimes as though they are strengthened in their sins after my discourse."

The Henry Morgan Departmental Store is to have a nine storey annex at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000. The building will be 235 feet by 165 feet, while there will also be constructed a power house at the corner of Union Avenue and Aylmer Street, 75 by 160 feet at a cost of \$150,000.

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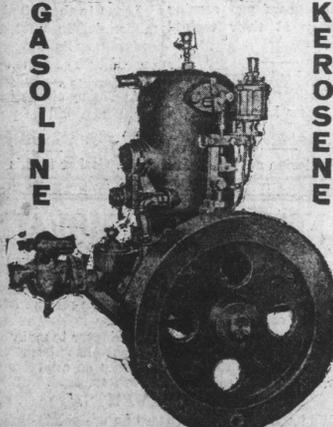
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