

ments to the vigilance of coast towns as to leave the isolation and treatment of this universal plague to local enterprise.

"A Federal organization is needed for the war. Federal revenues are needed to supply the sinews of war. Federal uniformity of effort is needed to make certain that parts of the country will not be neglected, so turning them into 'plague spots' from which we will all be constantly re-infected. The White Plague is like the Black Plague—it must be driven right out of the country, and then kept out, if we are ever to establish immunity. We hope that Dr. Roche and the Medical Convention will continue to agitate until they get a Federal Department of Health, and a good, big, effective 'vote' for the war on Tuberculosis."

*The Mail and Empire*, of Toronto, has also spoken in strong terms in support of the needed change in the management of health affairs.

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### A BRUTAL ATTACK ON HOSPITALS.

A short time ago the Press of Toronto was full of front-page reading matter condemning the work done in some of the Toronto hospitals, and more especially the General Hospital. These expressions were unjust in the extreme, and calculated to convey to the public a very wrong impression.

One speaker said that the General Hospital was a feeder for undertakers. It goes without saying that there is not a single member of the General Hospital staff who does not wish the recovery of his patients, and is well pleased when such is the case, rather than their death.

Another speaker, at the gathering of representatives of the Fraternal Societies, said that "there was not one chance in ten to escape the undertaker." This would give a death rate of over 90 per cent. The fact is that the death rate is about 6 per cent. It must be borne in mind that many patients are brought into hospitals as a place where they may die. Their case is hopeless when they enter.

Take the Hospital for Incurables for example. It would not do to charge its high death rate to cruelty or lack of skill. It is the very business of the hospital to care for those who have the fatal sentence already passed upon them.

But this whole affair is serious. Members of the medical profession have been hiring themselves out to the various fraternal societies for a mere pittance to do the attendance on their members. This has made these organizations bold, and they think they have the medical profession in their hands. They now come along and demand that their members should receive special consideration.

In Britain a short time ago, the cheap rates at which doctors attend-