

chimney of an open fireplace—no automatic renewal of air, which is thus rebreathed over and over again, charged with moisture and impurities from the lungs and skin, so that the dwellings are, if not actually culture media for the tubercle bacillus, perfectly adapted to protect it from adverse influences and promote its virulence. Corridors and passages are common, even in the best hotels, into which daylight never penetrates, and in which electric lights are necessary day and night.

Of course, conditions like these, which favour the dissemination of the tubercle bacilli, ought to be banished, but to revolutionize the domestic architecture and arrangements, as would be necessary, appears to be impracticable. There is about as much chance of this in Canada as of the extinction of poverty and the proper housing of the poor in this country.

This consideration gives to measures for preventing the dissemination of the tubercle bacilli primary and predominant importance, and it is the special merit of this little hospital that its purpose is to meet this requirement.

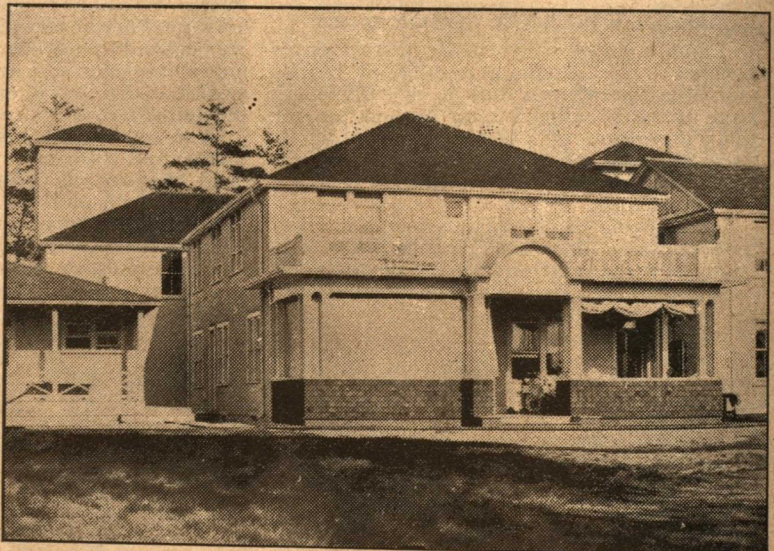
In dealing with consumption there are two distinct objects to be kept in view—the relief and cure of those already affected and the protection of the community generally from the disease.

In order that any sufficient degree of success may attend the first of these objects, the cases must be taken in hand at an early stage. It is on their behalf that sanatoriums have been erected for the open-air treatment, and it has almost come to be thought that these sanatoriums are the chief means to be relied upon for the suppression of consumption. They are, indeed, of very great importance in the combat against tuberculosis, since every case arrested ceases to be a focus of contagion, but the realization of the value and efficiency of the open-air treatment was an accidental coincidence with the discovery of the tubercle bacillus and the general recognition of the part it plays in the spread of the disease.

It is in advanced and far-advanced cases that the tuberculous microbes are produced in dangerous amount; the copious expectoration teems with them. For the purpose of

prevention the most important measure is the destruction of the sputum. Could this be effected completely the disease would be intercepted at its source, and in proportion as the expectoration is destroyed its spread is hindered and the community is protected from its ravages. If the expectoration is to be at all dealt with, the sufferers must be under efficient supervision and control. In some instances such control might be exercised at home, but in an enormous majority of the cases removal from unfavourable surroundings and segregation in special hospitals will be imperative.

Of the two objects, the treatment of early cases and the isolation of advanced cases, by far the most important in the interests of the public is the latter. The provision for these two objects again falls on different shoulders. Sanatoriums for the treatment of presumably curable cases are a legitimate object for charitable effort. Hospitals for isolation purposes ought to be provided by the health authorities. It is as much the duty of the bodies charged with the responsibility of guarding the public health to prevent the dissemination of tubercle bacilli



NEW BUILDING OF TORONTO FREE HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTIVES

in the air as to prevent the contamination of drinking water by typhoid bacilli.

The hospital for advanced and far-advanced consumption in Toronto is the first which, so far as I am aware, has been erected purely and simply with a view to prevention.\* I do not know who is to be credited with the idea, whether lay or medical, but I regard it as a fine instance of Canadian common sense and foresight. Its realization is due to Mr.

\*I fear I am doing an injustice to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Edinburgh, where, under the inspiration of Dr. Phillip, a pioneer in the campaign against tuberculosis, 50 beds are set apart for advanced cases.