

tuberculosis ward had not yet been completed, and this was a condition upon which the Indian Department grant had been made. When Indians went to any of the hospitals for treatment they were required to pay the fees personally if in a position to do so. Strenuous efforts were made to compel Indians to pay whenever they went to the hospital. When the hospital at Alert Bay was first opened the condition attached was that any Indian would receive treatment and medicines free, regardless of his ability to pay or otherwise. Later on the Rev John Antle, of the Columbia Coast Mission, which operated this hospital, had protested that many of the Indians were well able to pay for treatment and should be required to do so. This matter had been referred to Ottawa and a circular letter had been issued by the Department to Indian Agents and medical men with an intimation that no charge whatever should be made for Indians. A few months later a new order had been issued to the effect that while the Department would not assume collection or costs, Indians if able to do so were required to pay personally for attendance and medicines. Evil results had arisen through the operation of this order, as the Indians knowing that they would be asked to pay and finding the hospital charges for them very high, delayed sending any of their sick for treatment until too late. He recommended that all treatment and medicines for Indian patients should again be made absolutely free and that if the grant at present were insufficient to allow of this being done, that the grant should be increased. The rates charged the Indians at present were unquestionably too high for them, \$2.50 for advice and medicine on one consultation. This was if they saw the Doctor once at his office or if he went once to the home of the patient; often he would go to see the patient eight or nine times and \$2.50 per visit would be charged -- which was too much for people in the circumstances of these Indians. The Doctor, through the Columbia Coast Mission, got \$400 per year for the ordin-

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