

## THE TUBERCULOSIS' PROBLEM.

Why do we return so often to this subject? The answer is that it is the most important one before the people of this country. It is much more important than the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, or The Constitution of the New Provinces, or the Georgian Bay Canal, or the Tariff.

In 1901 there died of tuberculosis 18 per 10,000 of the population. The Dominion statistician gives the country's population at present as somewhat over the seven million mark. This means that at present this disease carries off annually about 12,000 of our people. If we put the average age at death of these as about 20 years, and the average yearly earnings in excess of the cost of living at \$100—and this is very moderate—the net loss on each life would be about \$2,500 on the usual expectation of life. This would give a net loss of at least \$30,000,000, gone from the resources of the country each year, by the death of 12,000 people of the average of 20 years.

But to this loss must be added the other losses caused by loss of time, medical attendance, nursing, trips in search of health, etc., plus all the grief and want to many a dependent one.

Can this be stopped? Yes, nearly all of it. Then if so, how? Let us try to answer this question.

1. The first thought would be to erect sanatoria for consumptives all over the country. This is good as far as it can go, but we fear it cannot overtake the work. There are at least four times as many ill each year as die. This would mean about 50,000 sufferers from tuberculosis in Canada. This would call for more sanatorium accommodation than we can ever hope for, even if only the more advanced cases were to be admitted. Suppose that the 12,000 who die each year are ranked as the advanced cases, at an average of 200 patients to each sanatorium, it would call for 60 such institutions, and we think this is away off in the distant future. And then there are left uncared for 35,000 to 40,000 gradually drifting into the advanced stage.

2. If it is impossible to manage the prevention and treatment of consumptives in sanatoria, how should the work be carried on? We must ultimately look to home treatment. As a powerful aid in this work the church should lend her helping hand. In Boston work of this kind is being successfully carried on. A congregation will take charge of a certain number of consumptives, and form these into a class for the study and care of the disease. A doctor acts with the committee. No one is allowed to remain a member of the class who does not obey the rules laid down for the care and treatment of his or her case. In this way a vast amount of education is carried on. This voluntary work is very valuable, but it does not go far enough, and we contend that there should be constant education throughout all the schools and colleges on this subject.