

losis. It grieves me to make this statement, and I do it not without a sense of humiliation. But I am full of hope, and I trust that the example which you, our good neighbors, are setting us to-day will not be without fruits. I devoutly hope that some day in the near future we may even enjoy a union meeting of the present Canadian and the future United States societies for the prevention of tuberculosis. I look forward to the time when, by a combined effort, we may be able to combat tuberculosis as a disease of the masses throughout this continent.

In this thought let us find our inspiration to discuss now as intelligently as we may be able to do the subject we have chosen. With your permission I desire to speak on "The Mission of Societies for the Prevention of Consumption in the Anti-tuberculosis Crusade."

At no epoch in Phthisiology, or for that matter in the history of medicine in general, has this singular disease, called consumption, or pulmonary tuberculosis, been so much written and talked about as at the present time. I have endeavoured to give you a birdseye view of the various anti-tuberculosis movements in foreign countries and of those of our own continent. You know of, and have yourselves experienced the widespread interest which is now now taken by medical and laymen all over the civilized world in this tuberculosis problem. If I should, however, be asked what is the cause of this strong awakening to the importance of a disease, the contagiousness of which was known to Isocrates, a contemporary of Hippocrates (460-377 B. C.) and the curability of which was demonstrated and described by the Arabian physicians as early as the 10th and 11th centuries, I would be at a loss to answer in one sentence. There have been mighty forces in operation to bring about this awakening which came almost simultaneously with the increase of our knowledge concerning the etiology of tuberculosis. Our greatest gratitude for the increase of knowledge in this respect we doubtlessly owe to that trinity of master-minds, Pasteur, Koch, and Lister, those three stars in the firmament of bacteriological science who represent at the same time the three foremost nations of the world. The first, the immortal Pasteur, has taught us that an infectious disease cannot arise without the presence of an infectious germ; Koch has shown us the infectious germ of the disease in which we are particularly interested, and Lister has demonstrated to us the value of cleanliness and antiseptics in the combat of infectious diseases.

It would take me too far to enumerate here the many illustrious pupils and co-workers of these three men. Wherever medicine is