

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

TUBERCULOSIS AND THE BACTERIOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE.*

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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—It is a gratifying circumstance that the present serious war has not prevented this important meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association, so closely in touch with the happiness and prosperity of our people. I am pleased to state I have just completed a survey of the entire Dominion, from Victoria to Halifax, and more recently through New Ontario and the mining districts of Sudbury, North Bay, Cobalt, Porcupine and Haileybury, and most grateful to report a decided decline of fully twenty-five per cent. in the death rate from tuberculosis since the formation of the Canadian association for the prevention of that disease. This is indeed a most gratifying result of the fifteen years of labor of the association. This marked change for the better is due to a combination of circumstances. 1st. The education of the masses, by a flood of literature, in slips and pamphlet form, from the Dominion Government chiefly, how to detect this disease and the steps necessary to counteract its influence. 2nd. No less than nine institutions have been formally opened for the treatment of tuberculosis since the annual convention held in Ottawa in 1913, all of which are doing excellent work. 3rd. The excellent service of the Dominion Government to prevent the spread of tuberculosis through milk from infected cows. 4th. The housing problem, as vigorously advocated by the Conservation Commission against overcrowding, and the adoption of sanitary improvements generally. 5th. A great and serviceable advance is the domiciliary visits of district nurses of the various orders now in active operation. 6th. The merited assistance of the press in Canada in stimulating the fresh-air life movement for our young generation. 7th. The marked advance in the scientific diagnosis of tuberculosis is a characteristic of the present-day life-saving to a great degree. 8th. The preventoria and open-air school movement are advances in keeping with the progress generally in lessening the spread of tuberculosis. 9th. The establishment of tuberculosis dispensaries is a well-timed advance in the treatment of that disease of a most commendable character and thoroughly practical in the results. 10th. Tent treatment of tuberculosis, and country air. Highly

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