

British Medical Association

Success of the 74th Annual Meeting in Toronto—Great in Personality and Great in Numbers and Interest—The Treatment of Tuberculosis a Leading Subject of Consideration

AN event of the year of permanent interest and value, not alone to Toronto, but to all Canada, was the holding of the 74th Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in Toronto, during the month of August. It can be said in a sentence that the great men of medicine the world over were here.

No need exists in a magazine article to list the many famous names, representing visitors in Toronto during the week, nor to particularize the many features that made up the programme of that memorable week.

Readers of CANADIAN OUTDOOR LIFE will be more particularly interested in what the British Medical Association did, so far as the subject of tuberculosis was concerned. This was one of the subjects discussed in the State Medicine Section, the meetings of which were open to the general public. Only the meetings of the State Medicine Section were thus open.

IMMUNITY OF ANIMALS

Dr. Samuel Dixon, Commissioner of Health, Harrisburg, Pa., presented the first paper. His topic was "The Prevention of Tuberculosis". He dealt with the progress made in the treatment of tuberculosis since the Association last met in Canada. Among other results determined by experiments was that the tubercular bacilli in animals are much more virulent than those of human origin. So far, however, science has not been able to discover any means of rendering animals immune permanently against the tubercule poison. In summing up the situation Dr. Dixon asserted that as a result of fifteen years' research it had been demonstrated that a degree of immunity can be produced in the lower animals. They had not been wholly successful, but a higher degree of immunity had been attained. The measure of success achieved was a stimulus to renewed energy and search for the active principle which can be used without danger upon the human anatomy to render it immune.

That scientific tests have shown that the seeds of pulmonary tuberculosis harbored within doors in the dried state are capable of retaining their effective vitality for prolonged periods of time.

That any method of procedure employed in inhabited buildings which causes dust to be disseminated must be considered as tending to spread the seeds of consumption.

That hotels, clubs, theatres, office buildings, schools, churches, and business establishments generally should be required by

law, to introduce and operate dustless methods of cleaning—this part of their mechanical equipment being held to be as necessary as provision similarly made for warming, ventilation, and for fire protection and fire escape; and the employment of dustless methods in private residences is urged as being equally imperative for the control and suppression of all forms of tuberculous disease.

WHAT PREVENTS WILL ALSO CURE

In the discussion which followed Dr. Probst urged the necessity of educating the public as one of the most effective methods of combating the spread of tuberculosis. He suggested an addition to every house by which the inmates might sleep in the open air for a certain period of the year; also that architects should pay greater attention to ventilation in designing houses.

Dr. Stevens gave an interesting statement of the campaign carried on successfully in the borough of Renfrew, Scotland, to educate the people in preventive hygiene.

Prof. Glaister of Glasgow University, while concurring in the value of fresh air treatment for tuberculosis, suggested that climatic conditions must necessarily govern the application of such treatment. He laid down the axiom that whatever conditions are preventive were also curative, and emphasized the opinion that dry dusting of furniture was a delusion. In connection with the dust of the streets Prof. Glaister said he noticed that in some cities in Canada the streets were either all dust or pools of water. People when retiring at night left their windows open, and if a wind rose during the night the dust was blown into the room and inhaled by them. That dust carried the germ from the sputum, and therein lay the danger. A large amount of tuberculosis was produced by conditions which were preventive. Another matter which required attention was the smoke nuisance, which he regretted to observe was prevalent in Canada, and which it was as necessary to get rid of as of dust, in order to give people's lungs an opportunity to resist tuberculosis.

USEFUL AND PRACTICAL

At the request of the President, Dr. J. Groves of Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, spoke of the importance of day camps, one of the most useful and practical preventive means known. Every person suffering from consumption should be got under education, not necessarily in a sanitarium, but under medical supervision in a tent, with nurses in attendance conversant with the life that