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ations of both Church and State, which the new truths quickened into being, carried the word of preventive medicine to all the people. Governments began to feel the impelling force of an awakening that came from the intimate life and homes of the town and countryside, and breathed the spirit of a mighty truth. The old horrors of hospital gangrene from infected wounds (rotting) had gone; child-birth fever, which had so often closed the eyes of the young mother to her offspring and her new happiness, was banished for ever as the accursed thing it was. Surgery, strong in a security it never knew before, went forward to save millions of lives. Medicine laid aside much of its old and useless therapeutics, and, moulding the new truths to its use, not only placed curative methods on a rational basis, but practically wiped out a number of diseases which formerly took a big toll of human life. Dr. Gorgas went down to the fever infested zone of Panama, and there performed the miracle of changing a land that reeked with pestilence and death into a veritable health resort. The erstwhile invisible enemy was dragged under the microscope, its secrets were disclosed, and effective measures were taken to guard the human species from attack. President Roosevelt's engineers and his army of workmen followed in the wake of this strange new light, and the great canal became a fact. The bones of the French workmen, who in less enlightened days essayed the same great undertaking, bore testimony to the tragic contrast between the old empirical methods of guarding public health in the tropics and the new ones based on scientific research. Such striking examples of the new sanitation made a profound impression on the public mind. Governments began to establish health departments and encourage research. Voluntary organization sprang up in all directions. Economics came into the picture, and the dictum that *a nation's health is a nation's wealth* began to have a real meaning. The old order had changed; the new had succeeded; and God had indeed fulfilled Himself in beneficent ways.

While to-day in every civilized country there is activity in the control of all diseases, it is to the so-called communicable ailments that the most persistent efforts are directed. They come into our every-day life, and are more susceptible to control by health laws and regulations. One of the familiar examples is tuberculosis of the lungs, or what was called consumption before we knew the causative germ, *the bacillus tuberculosis*. As consumption, it was almost invariably fatal to the person attacked, and among the members of a household almost as certain to spread. Ignorant of the living germ, ignorant of the value of fresh air and sunshine,

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they closed their windows tight, drew down their blinds creating inside an incubator for the propagation of this white plague, and within the memory of many of us, one brother or sister followed another until the tragedies were told in the increasing graves of that household:

The pity of't, Iago; Oh Iago, the pity of't.

We can cure many now, and with sufficient equipment we can control the spread of this disease. In our own country it is the biggest job of both government and voluntary departments of health. Governments no longer close their eyes to their responsibilities, and the public health budget is an ever increasing one. The medical profession, more than at any previous time in its long history, is co-operating with public health bodies. Research is almost every year placing some new agency in the hands of our health officers to increase their effectiveness in the field. It has much to do still, for there are yet mysteries to unravel. Cancer is not solved, and there are others too. But the future is bright with promise. We must go on, because, in our complex civilization, a reasonable control of disease is fundamental. It is vital and national, and in its close analysis goes to the root of our best conception of democracy.

III

While it is quite true, as Oliver Wendell Holmes observed, that "our fairest forms are never reached", yet health departments are entitled to ideals, and the one that best expresses their summum bonum is that the full benefits of modern medical science, curative and preventive, should be easily accessible to every man, woman and child in our country. Short of this, there is work to do. Two powerful enemies of this consummation in our Dominion are geography and poverty. The latter has no geographical boundaries, and has to be reckoned with throughout the world; the former obtrudes itself most stubbornly in the newer countries like Canada where the frontiersman still has his work to do, and where the ever widening and thinly spreading colonization of our broad tracts of prairies and wilderness must continue to create perplexing problems of a social and economic character. Even in our own sea-girt Nova Scotia we have far too many villages and settlements which are receiving but a tithe of what modern medicine has to offer. They are the places remote from the medical centres. They have both the factors mentioned to contend with. Many of the people in these villages are poor, and only in severe illness are the services of a doctor sought. A thirty or forty mile trip

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