

same pace. But as countries, the United States and Canada do almost nothing for the prevention of tuberculosis.

A few days ago a League was formed in Toronto for the suppression of tuberculosis. We hope well of the movement. A committee consisting of Dr. Hodgetts, Dr. J. T. Fotheringham, Dr. J. N. E. Brown, Dr. Bruce Smith, Dr. Helen MacMurchy, Miss Josephine Hamilton, Mrs. Torrington, Rev. John MacNeil, D.D., Mr. Frank Sanderson, Mr. E. O'Sullivan, Mr. J. R. L. Starr, K.C., Dr. Bruce Macdonald, Dr. William Oldright, Rev. Father Minehan, Mr. James Simpson, Dr. Harold Parsons and Dr. J. E. Elliott was appointed. We shall watch with interest the outcome of this movement. In the meantime would say *scelus populi suprema lex est*, and, therefore, there are heavy responsibilities on the shoulders of our legislators both Federal and Provincial.

OUR DEGENERATES.

What are we going to do about them? The first and most important question is prevention. It is notoriously true that marriages can be effected too easily. The law should demand greater safeguards in the matter of issuing marriage licenses. It will not prevent any marriages that should be consummated to enquire into the sanity and character of the contracting parties. Once married it is very difficult to secure separation. A bond that is so hard to break should not be tied too thoughtlessly.

One immoral, dissolute, insane, degenerate, or criminal parent may start into existence a long line of perverts. These are bound to be a charge upon the state in some way or other. For this reason the state should step in and make it impossible for such as the foregoing to marry. It is a vast deal easier to prevent the birth of children by such marriages than to care for them after they are born.

The report of Dr. Helen MacMurchy on the feeble-minded in Ontario raises many thoughts to one's mind; but the one of all others that will not down is that of prevention. The recent study of heredity at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, showed very clearly that of all groups of diseases, the nervous showed the most definite tendency to descend from "sire to son." Here then is our duty.

Some talk glibly about the liberty of the subject. Certain liberties should be taken from the degenerate, and the first of these that should go would be the liberty to marry, and bring into the world unfortunate children who are not responsible for either their being or their qualities of head, heart or body; and who have not enough stamina to keep from the worst forms of vice.