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CONSUMPTION—ITS CAUSES AND PREVENTION.

Consumption is such a fearfully prevalent and fatal disease in almost every country in the world that hardly any question can be of greater importance than that which relates to its prevention. It is a question which concerns every individual, of every age, high, low, rich and poor, almost alike, for no one can be said to be exempt from the disease or its influence. Moreover, the disease seems to be every where on the increase, which fact makes the question a still more serious one. Finally, the disease is undoubtedly preventable, and the subject of its prevention becomes one of great practical importance.

A great many people, even amongst the more intelligent classes, look upon consumption, as they do upon many other diseases, as something to which human beings are so naturally subject that they are powerless in preventing it; yet, when once symptoms of its presence become manifested in the body of any one, there is not the slightest hesitation in at once resorting to means for its cure. Any one of ordinary intelligence who will examine into the now well known causes of consumption cannot fail to readily see that it is not only a preventable disease, but that it may be more surely prevented than the actively infectious diseases which prevail epidemically: because the prevention of consumption is, in each individual case, practically almost entirely in the hands of the individual, whereas, in the case of any one of the very infect-

ious diseases, any individual is liable to become infected from other persons who, through ignorance or wanton carelessness, may convey the infection of it to him. Consumption is now almost universally regarded by the medical profession as a preventable disease.

THE MOST FATAL AND COSTLY DISEASE.

The record of deaths in the province of Ontario since the year 1870, shows that many more deaths are caused by consumption than by any other disease. It causes on an average more than one-tenth of all the deaths registered in the province. In Nova Scotia, from a record of deaths collected there a few years ago, it causes about one-fifth of the deaths in that province. In Great Britain and in some of the United States it is nearly or quite as fatal.

From the long period of debility, sickness and inability to work which invariably precede death from this disease, the actual costs of the disease to the country, aside from the deaths, is vastly greater than the costs of any other disease; the proportion, on comparison with other diseases, being much greater in regard to the sickness than to the deaths.

It is somewhat strange, considering the great fatality of this disease and the large proportion of deaths it is continually causing in almost every civilized country, that more general attention has not heretofore been given by sanitarians to its prevention. Those interested in public health proceedings—in the prevention of