

thus supported by the life insurance companies, could exert an even greater influence, than at present, in bringing about better hygienic conditions and lengthening the life of the insured.

Inter Alia.

The opinion is becoming generally expressed among those who have investigated the matter that the movement to establish dispensaries in numerous localities is one that offers the best chance of stamping out certain diseases and particularly tuberculosis. The patient in early stages is the one who can be most benefited, and while the admittedly less economical sanatoria have, of course, their uses, they should not be advocated in opposition to local centres of advice and treatment, nor as a superior means of prophylaxis. The watchword of every municipality should be prevention rather than cure, and the lesson should be learned that taxes spent on local education against disease and poverty yield higher returns than any investment in additional uncentralized or isolated institutions which involve the separation of the patient from his family and his work.

In this connection we might mention the Montreal Dispensary, the excellent conduct of which, regarding tuberculosis, lacks only municipal co-operation in order that the work may be followed up outside.

No one can visit this Montreal institution without being impressed with the need of such a dispensary in every community. Since the Montreal Dispensary opening, 17 months ago, there have been over 12,000 consultations; there being splendid co-operation between the hospitals of Montreal and the Dispensary, which is now recognized beyond question as the prime factor in the solution of the tuberculosis problem.

Apropos to Hiram J. Messenger's investigation into the sanitary conditions of cities, the fact is now becoming largely recognized that all unsanitary conditions bring heavy expense; the loss of efficiency which attends sickness is very great. Hitherto, and still in many places, the people winked at the ounce of prevention, while keeping up the pound expenditure for cure, ordinary appeals having been useless from the fact of existing ignorance with its accompanying conceit, apathy, procrastination and the clutch of the dollar with its attending ideas of false economy. As avarice, ignorance, apathy, procrastination and conceit are recognized sins, is it strange to find them the cause of the sins of unsanitary conditions?

Of all unsanitary sins the unsanitary school-house is by far the worst, resulting as it does, in the injury to defenceless children. The school house which is not thoroughly ventilated with ample ventilating ducts, or which is not thoroughly and properly lighted, or which is not properly warmed nor kept clean, or which has not an ample supply of pure water or has abominable out-houses, marks the community in which it exists as ignorant, cruel and extravagant. Such school houses bring insufficiency upon teacher and pupils and inadequate returns for tax expenditures.

The ignorant trustee, whose only idea of economy is to spend less than his predecessor, is a dangerous man. And it is proposed to assist in the dissipation of such ignorance by establishing permanent buildings upon our provincial exhibition grounds, where, during at least two weeks yearly, exhibitions and lectures may be given, demonstrating the result of the opposite policy of expenditure on sanitary works and how finally preventable poverty and disease may be stamped out.
