

to governmental and special efforts of scientists, who should not be single-handed in public health efforts.

In May, 1900, the regius professors of Oxford and Cambridge spoke with all the responsibility of their office, on the communicability of consumption and its prevention, fully impressed with the fact that from 65,000 to 70,000 die annually from the disease in Great Britain, more than double the fatality of the entire British force at present in South Africa.

Clifford Allbutt epitomized the preventive measures: an active crusade against the three D's—damp, darkness and dirt. In clearing the public of these evils, the standard of general health would be raised to a higher level, and what is needed in Canada is thorough organization.

At the last session of the legislature of Ontario a permissive bill was unanimously passed, the result of the labors of the Anti-Consumptive League, of Toronto, providing for the erection and maintenance of a sanatorium for consumptives in each municipality, or group of municipalities, in the Province of Ontario. This is a most progressive move, in keeping with the advancement of the day, and one which reflects much credit on the local authorities of Ontario.

The history of medical opinion as to the communicability of tuberculosis is somewhat remarkable. Villemin was ridiculed as to his ideas of infection, but we are all contagionists now, and Villemin's name stands out as one of the greatest men of his time, true scientist in the widest and most comprehensive sense.

Considering the antiquity of the belief of contagiousness of consumption, it is remarkable the length of time that elapsed before active measures were thought of to stay the progress of the disease. That consumption was contagious was known to Aristotle, who stated that the breath of consumptives was poisonous to those about them. In the second century, Galen announced the same idea, and warned the people that it was dangerous to live intimately with sufferers from consumption. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Baillon, a celebrated French physician, and Montano observed the frequency of consumption in those who attended phthisical patients. In 1682 the celebrated Morgagni expressed the same opinion. At Nancy, in 1750, the fur-