

Vancouver Rotary and Community Service

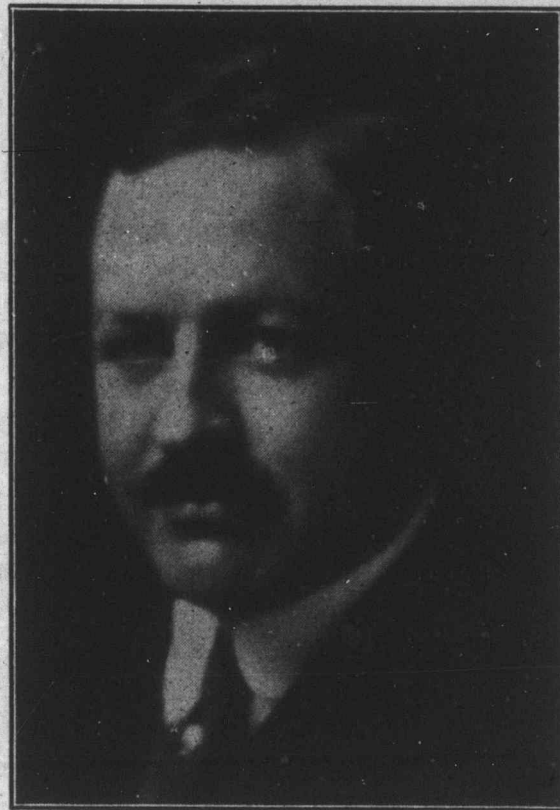
By President John D. Kearns.

"SERVICE, NOT SELF," is the motto of Rotary. Could an objective be more simple or more worthy of attainment! Rotary now is universal. Its membership includes clubs in the United States, Canada, Hawaii, Cuba, Ireland, Scotland and England. It is rapidly growing and no one is attempting to fix the limit of its extension. Just so long as men desire to serve, so will Rotary expand. The basis of membership in Rotary is that only one member in each classification of business or the professions is eligible for election and that person must be an owner or executive in his calling. Furthermore, price of membership is whole-hearted participation in the Club's activities and no membership can be retained unless it is earned by honest effort. Picture, then, the potential strength of the Vancouver Rotary Club with two hundred members of this type working in unison for the elevation of business methods to the highest ethical plane and for the development of an intensified public spirit within the community. Rotary is not a "boosting" organization, neither is it deliberative. Its purpose as indicated above is to do good, no matter in what direction duty calls. Many lines of public welfare have in the past been assisted by the organization, and the club is now pledged to an uncompromising campaign against Tuberculosis. Its first work of this nature consisted in providing relief in the way of food, clothing and medical attention to families afflicted by the white plague, and, in many cases, included the provision of better housing conditions. In one instance, a family was transported free of charge to another locality, which resulted in a complete recovery for the afflicted party. It is recognized by those who observed the work that this slight effort, spread over two years, on the part of Rotary actually preserved for the community several lives which otherwise might not have been saved. Its particular result, however, was the light it gave to Rotary in opening the wider and more essential field for the prevention and cure of Tuberculosis. Everyone must know that proper preventative measures against chest trouble, taken in time, are bound to lessen the danger from that condition and to effectively check the spread of chest diseases.

Our sanatoria and isolation hospitals are populated at this very time with unfortunate men, women and children who most certainly would not be in that condition had there been available for them facilities for scientific and humane treatment during the time when preventive measures were needed. This is positively true and its startling significance inspired Vancouver Rotarians to inaugurate a movement by which this appalling loss of life and suffering could be averted, the result of which movement was the erection and operation of the Rotary Institute for Chest Diseases, in 1918-1919. The building with equipment represents an expenditure of approximately \$60,000. This money was raised in May, 1919, by public subscription from the citizens of Vancouver and environs, after Rotary, as an organization, subscribed over \$15,000 in excess of the building requirements, for maintenance purposes. The Institute is commonly known as the Clinic and its one purpose is for the benefit of the public. Its services are free and the trustees urge that its facilities be taken full advantage of by those whom it can serve.

The specific objects of the Clinic are as follows:—

1. To give an opportunity of thorough expert examination in all diseases of the chest. Especial attention is paid to the



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discovery of Tuberculosis in its early stages. A modern and up-to-date X-Ray apparatus has been installed, also a well equipped laboratory.

2. To keep under observation and treatment such cases of Tuberculosis as are not being otherwise cared for.

3. By means of an open-air school to give children who might otherwise become crippled with Tuberculosis an opportunity to become not only strong and well, but to continue their education.

4. By lectures, demonstrations, distribution of literature and such other means as may be suggested, to educate the public in the prevention and cure of Tuberculosis.

The principal features of the Institute are the Rest Rooms, Examination Rooms, Laboratory, X-Ray equipment, School Room where twenty children are now receiving absolutely free expert medical treatment, together with the standard school curriculum; a visiting nurse whose duty is to see that patients' home conditions are in harmony with preventive treatment, and above all, a medical director in the person of Dr. C. H. Vrooman, regarded throughout Canada as one of the most eminent specialists in chest diseases.

The Clinic was open for treatment of patients in January, 1919. Up to October 1, 1919, 1007 consultations were held and 425 cases had been treated absolutely free of charge. The practical results from this treatment are not in statistical form as yet, but those responsible are satisfied that it has already been the means of arresting the spread of the dread disease in many cases.

The Institute is rapidly gaining in popularity and importance. When patients realize that this is an honest attempt to provide adequate service, free of cost, and help to those in trouble, its facilities are sure to be fully taxed. Then will the initiative of Vancouver Rotary in this field be fully justified and all those good citizens of Greater Vancouver who shared in the realization of this splendid public service shall enjoy most who serves best."

the fruits of their generous contributions, because "he profits