

sprays produces a most surprising effect. The instant a particle of paraffin touches a particle of cold water, the former, of course, becomes solid, and a sort of spongy tissue is formed with startling rapidity from droplets of water which have become imprisoned in the cancellous spaces of the paraffin. The result is that not only does the cold water applied as a spray greatly facilitate the solidifying of the paraffin, but it enormously increases the speed with which the mould is thickened. This process is continued until the mould, over its whole surface, has attained a thickness of three-eighths to half an inch, when the paraffin spray is stopped and the iced water continued for a few moments until the whole surface is quite firm."

The mould is then strengthened with a liberal coating of plaster-of-paris and the threads cut out, so as to divide the mould into sections. As soon as the plaster has set the moulds are removed. In making the cast the different sections are fitted together, the line of junction smeared with plaster cream, and without any preparation of the surface of the moulds, such as oiling, the plaster cream is poured into the hollow mould in the ordinary way.

It is quite true that, as Mr. Tait says, casts can be made by using melted paraffin with a painter's brush, a sponge, and some iced water. The process of taking casts has, however, been improved since 1864, the simpler being discarded for the more complex apparatus, in an effort to obtain greater artistic perfection of detail. Professor Peters, who has devoted a good deal of time to this branch of art during the past six or seven years, has frequently had occasion to observe the great delicacy, truth and beauty of casts obtained by the use of the apparatus invented and described by him, and naturally prefers it to the somewhat crude method eulogized by Mr. Tait.

J. J. C.

THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

WE hope the idea of to-day (a hospital for consumptives in the immediate vicinity of Toronto) will become speedily a reality. Surely such a hospital would prove a wondrous blessing, especially to the poor. We notice that old Edinburgh has awakened to its need of a similar institution, several articles having recently appeared in *The Scotsman* advocating the scheme, and we believe some of the preliminary arrangements for its advancement have been completed. But while we dream of plans for the future, the