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EDITORIAL.

The Curing of Consumption.

The question of stamping out consumption should be an important one to everyone, if not from benevolent motives, at least from selfish ones, since it has been decidedly proved that everyone, at some period of his or her life, has absorbed consumption bacilli, and has only been saved from the disease because the body happened to be in a disease-resistant condition. Had there been a weakness anywhere, the germs would have multiplied and consumption been the result.

In a report recently issued by the Phipps Institute, Philadelphia, containing papers by eminent tuberculosis specialists, many interesting facts are given regarding discoveries and observations of tuberculosis. As regards prevention, however, the old suggestions are repeated, suggestions which cannot, however, be repeated too often until education regarding this dread malady has been complete. Patients are advised to go to regular consumption sanitariums, when possible, thus securing the best conditions for themselves and immunity from danger for their friends at one stroke. The use of the spit-cup by patients, or of some similar device for preventing the drying of the sputum, and consequent dissemination of the light, dry bacilli through the air, is emphatically insisted upon. Everyone, well or ill, is urged to live hygienically in every way, and to pay especial attention to ventilation and out-door exercise.

In regard to the establishment of consumption sanitariums, the history of the Phipps Institute shows "how easy it is in any community to make provision for the treatment of the consumptive poor, without waiting until a great deal of money is at hand, and ideal conditions." The Phipps Institute itself was opened in an old building, hastily fitted up to admit the patients—many of whom were too poor to pay—who came crowding in before the place was in convenient condition to receive them. There was further difficulty in obtaining nurses, as ordinary nurses were afraid of the disease, but the difficulty was finally met by securing girls who had been cured at White Haven. The success of the Institute has since fully warranted the beginning under such inauspicious circumstances.

Other sanitariums mentioned in the report as having been especially successful are those at White Haven, Conn., and Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks. To these we might add our own at Gravenhurst, Ont. In all these institutions, however, the plan of combat is practically the same: the patients are induced to live out of doors as much as possible, be the weather what it may; they sleep alone in rooms perfectly ventilated; their lives are regulated by a strict system of discipline; complete rest of mind and body, so far as attainable, is encouraged; the food supplied is pure and nourishing. At the Phipps Institute, three quarts of milk and six raw eggs daily, in addition to one meal of solid food, beef or mutton, fresh vegetables, and fruit, are given. Medical remedies are, to a certain extent, used at most of the institutions, although at Saranac Lake, the only one employed is Koch's system of tuberculin inoculation.

In every case, whether in a sanitarium or out of it, it is to be noted that PERSISTENCE is the price of success. As remarked by Dr. W. Osler, late of Johns Hopkins University, now of Oxford University: "Benefit is usually a matter of months; complete arrest a matter of years; absolute cure a matter of many years." But it

can be accomplished, and the persistent, hopeful co-operation of the patient is the price of health and longevity.

Seed Distribution by Experimental Farms

"Another thing which might, we think, be changed with benefit is 'seed distribution,' which is done to Westerners on a ridiculously small scale. The farmers who will, or can, afford to bother with a three-pound sample are few in this country of rapid growth and short seasons. Not only so, but the work entailed on the farms by such microscopic distributions is far too expensive from either the standpoint of initial outlay to the taxpayer or results. If it is desirable to distribute such seeds, why not do away with the free system, and send out the seed in larger quantities, at least enough to seed an acre? It would be better if seed sufficient to sow five acres were furnished, and a fee charged, which might be refunded on the reporting of the results of the tests; or, the larger plots of seed might be distributed through the agricultural societies, who would be responsible, and see that such were not wasted."

The above states briefly our view with regard to the distribution of seed in the West by the Dominion Experimental Farms. Herewith the "Farmer's Advocate" resumes the subject, and goes more into detail regarding the scheme at present in vogue.

One serious disadvantage of the small-lot distributions is that there is a tendency to mixing of varieties, which, in wheat-growing, has proved of great damage, resulting in the lowering of the grade in many cases, in volunteer crops, irregular ripening, the introduction of softer-strawed wheats, which succumb to the rust fungus quite easily.

In the Brandon report for 1904, we find 161 three-pound samples of grain were sent out in 1903, and in the previous year, 401; while from Indian Head 1,158 three-pound samples of grain were sent out in 1903, and in 1902, 1,250 samples, but the reports do not state the results, in the way of reports by experimenters, from such distribution. It is fair, however, to assume that such are in the same proportions as from the distribution of other seeds. In 1904, Mr. Bedford states that 74 reported of the 216 supplied with tree seeds, and only 13 per cent. reported in 1903 on the trees supplied them in 1901. The scarcity of replies indicate that the farmer has, in many cases, been far too busy, or did not consider it worth the trouble, to complete the experiment; whereas, we understand, in cases where the larger quantity, five bushels, has been sent out, the responses and reports have been most encouraging. On reflection, it will be seen that a five-bushel sample will give enough to sow a few acres, if wheat, and put on good land, four acres, and will yield, under average conditions, a setting which can be threshed and binned separately; whereas, the three-pound sample producing about one bushel, awkward to thresh, even with the flail (poverty-stick), is liable to be lost, not kept pure, or, as it happened with one farmer we know, the sample taken from the machine to the granary on the last load was thrown to the pigs, the teamster not being in the secret of the importance of the sample. It might also be well to mention here that the Macdonald seed-grain competition, started by Prof. Robertson for children in 1900, called for one acre as the minimum plot, thus demonstrating that he believed, as we do, that all such work of education and improvement should be along lines of least resistance, by outlining experimental work not too difficult for the average man to accomplish.

We notice that the free samples of potatoes sent out are in three-pound lots, which all must admit is a fair amount of this vegetable to start with. Such only serves to show the correctness of our contention for larger samples of grain, and that the Director hardly appreciates the relative importance of wheat and potatoes to the prairie farmer. If a variety of roots, or of vegetables destined for the table, is of sufficient importance to warrant the sending out of a three-pound sample, surely THE STAPLE CEREAL CROP OF THE COUNTRY, WHEAT, MERITS A LARGER SAMPLE FOR DISTRIBUTION. Again, the work necessary to the planting and harvesting of the potato samples is infinitesimal compared with that of a three-pound sample of grain. Not only so, but the potato-sample owner is likely to get results in one season one hundred times greater than and with one-tenth of the trouble that falls to his fellow experimenter with the three-pound sample of grain.

We find that this seed-grain distribution has been going on for years, mention being made in the Experimental Farm reports over ten years ago. WHERE ARE THE RESULTS? PURE SEED, EVEN OF RED FIFE, IS VERY HARD TO GET AT THE PRESENT TIME.

We might refer to the method of the Minnesota Station (described in the columns of the Farm Department) of distributing a new variety of grain, which is, we consider, in line with our own idea, namely, the inculcation of the doctrine of improved seed amongst the farmers, and not the turning out of a lot of garden-sized experimenters. The seasons are far too short, labor is too scarce and high-priced on the prairie to warrant the present plan. We think the management of the farms might well consider these matters.

We must also, in Canada, guard against the development of any "free-seed graft," which, in the United States, has grown to be a colossal scandal amounting to as much as \$200,000 a year, distributed by senators and congressmen among their pap-loving political friends. The Minnesota plan appears to be designed to promote individual effort and enterprise, which is the proper principle underlying the proposed seed-grain growing movement in Canada.

A National Exhibition at the Coast.

It has been definitely announced that the Dominion Government will appropriate the usual grant for Dominion Exposition purposes to enlarging the New Westminster, B. C., annual exhibition. The date of holding the great national event has been set for September 27th to October 7th. The assurance that Government assistance will be given to augment the prize list should be an incentive to stockmen to prepare to participate in the event. The possibilities of British Columbia as a market for pure-bred stock are immense, and the holding of the Dominion Exposition at the Pacific Coast will afford one of the most convenient opportunities that could be desired by stockmen to develop trade with the breeders of the Western Province. And not only so, but the advantageous rates that it is expected will be in force will be utilized by Canadians who have long cherished a desire to visit the mountains and valleys of British Columbia, to traverse the wide and sweeping prairies of Manitoba and the Territories, and to learn something of the extent and resources of our common country. New Westminster is fortunate in securing the national assistance necessary to carry out a large exhibition, and, no doubt, when its gates shall be closed it will unanimously be declared a successful one.