

This class of patients are to be found everywhere. Every town and village has its quota.

In every factory and workshop they are to be found. Every hotel accommodates them and every steamboat and railway carriage affords them transportation. And it is in these places and the like that precautions must be taken if the spread of the disease is to be prevented. Hygienic cuspidors, such for example as Knopf's elevated cuspidor (Fig. 5) should be placed in railway carriages, on steamers, in the

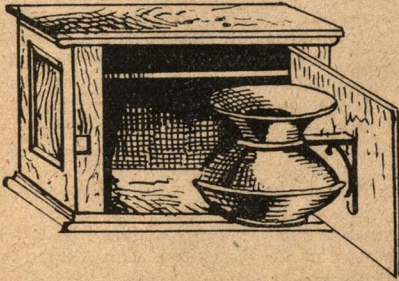


FIG. 5

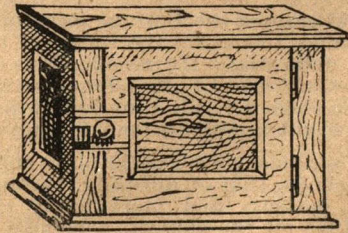
rooms of hotels, in factories, and in other places in which people congregate. Spitting in any other place should be prohibited, and wall cards setting forth the dangers arising from promiscuous spitting should be prominently exhibited.

As of course in spite of the most careful precautions there will always be some who are careless or obstinate, further precautions must be taken and dry sweeping and dusting abandoned and adequate methods for frequent disinfection introduced.

And it is thus that the question of municipal control of tuberculosis arises. And undoubtedly it is a disease worthy of the attention not only of municipal authorities but also of practical statesmen and students of political economy everywhere. Twenty-five people died of this disease in Canada to-day, and 350 in the United States. Counting the loss to the individual in wages while ill, the extra expense of food, nursing and medical attendance, the cost of burial, together with the loss to the state entailed in the education of children who do not live to make any return, some conception may be gained of the enormous economic loss entailed by the prevalence of the disease. In the United States it has been estimated at \$330,000,000 annually and for Canada the figure would be \$1,750,000. Different views will be held of course as to the extent to which it is the duty of municipal authorities to interest themselves. They might reasonably be expected, however, to encourage and aid the dissemination of knowledge, to look to the sanitary conditions of schools and the health of school children, to do as much for adult workers in factories, ware-

houses, shops, stores and the like, to prevent the unsanitary housing of people in over crowded tenements or congested districts, to aid in the maintenance of patients in hospitals and sanatoria. Further, laws should be enacted and regulations enforced to the end that promiscuous spitting may be prevented.

The allied question of compulsory notification in tuberculosis is one of course, that calls forth diverse opinions. It is well, however, that the case should be presented fairly and that the terms used should be thoroughly understood. To the average layman the term compulsory notification is associated with the idea of isolating the patient, and placarding his house. Such however is not the intention. By compulsory notification in tuberculosis, is understood the giving the name and address of the person afflicted to the Board of Health, so that for his own good and the good of others he may receive adequate instructions as to the best means of preventing the transmission of the disease to others. It is not a system which would cause him to be shunned, and it can readily be understood that the placarding of houses would be a measure which would defeat its own object, because tuberculosis is a disease which can readily be concealed for years. On the other hand compulsory notification with protection for the patient against annoying interference and publicity, systematic instruction, competent supervision of the methods adopted for the destruction of sputum, and the disinfection of rooms seems



to be the only practicable method of reaching those who cannot be relied on to voluntarily protect themselves and others.

In any event the disease is disastrously prevalent. And yet it is preventable. On whom the responsibility for its prevalence and for its spread properly rests is a question which each may reasonably ask himself.

Not a single applicant has ever been refused admission to the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives because of his or her poverty.