THE VITAL AND ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM,

BY

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FROM time to time there has appeared in PUBLIC HEALTH articles illustrative of the advantage of the sanatorium in lessening, through curative methods, the prevalence of tuberculosis, while its value as a means of cure as compared with home treatment has been as persistently insisted upon by others. Having been instrumental in having the County Sanatorium Act for the Province of Ontario passed in 1900, I have naturally watched with much interest the progress of such institutions and their effect upon death-rates, and am glad to be able to present the following study as having a direct bearing upon these discussions.

The study of the Annual Reports of sanatoria in two cities in that Province, which have run closely together in the matter of population during the last fifteen years, has made it possible to compare results in two institutions much the same in institutional equipment and number of beds. In Hamilton, however, the medical superintendent has been especially active in pressing his views with regard to the treatment of early cases to the point where he has obtained the active co-operation of all city health agencies for discovering tuberculous cases in their early stages; while in Ottawa the city has had perhaps a larger proportion of a working population not so well instructed in the ideas of preventive treatment, and who were perhaps financially less able to allow wage-earners to take institutional treatment until forced by their inability to work. The Sanatorium in Hamilton has been in existence eleven years, while an active Anti-Tuberculosis League and a Sanatorium has existed in Ottawa for seven years, so that the period passed over is sufficiently long to enable the outcome of the methods adopted to be closely comparable.

It may further be stated, owing to the fact that a large immigration came to Canada during the fifteen years before the war, and materially assisted in the increase of urban population, that the City of Hamilton increased during the fifteen-year period by just one hundred per cent., while the City of Ottawa increased also very rapidly, and as the seat

of Federal Government has probably a more than average proportion of its population engaged in official rather than in industrial pursuits. Of its labouring population, however, a notable number are engaged in the lumbering industries of what has for years been one of the greatest manufacturing lumber centres of the world.

Apart, then, from these distinctions, the comparison may be fairly called a natural one; any difference in results being due to insistence of the Superintendent of the Hamilton Sanatorium as set forth in the following extract. It may also be mentioned that the Sanatoria in Canada have especially been utilized through additions to their buildings for the accommodation and treatment of returned tuberculous soldiers.

Speaking in this connection, Dr. J. H. Holbrooke, the Superintendent for nine years of the Hamilton Sanatorium, says:

"And our experience with these men goes to show that the eradication of tuberculosis will not come through the protection of the adult, but through the protection of the child. The adult consumptive must not be allowed to live in contact with the little child, and our preventorium work must continue to grow, and with it all must grow a wider knowledge of the methods of diagnosis of early tuberculosis in the child. Cases in children are being missed by medical men every day because they look for the grosser lesion of an acute disease when they should look for the obscure signs of a very chronic disease. The failure to observe this condition, I believe, leads to the greatest waste, and the greatest need for conservation we have to-day."

The following table gives the deaths from tuberculosis in the two cities for 1901 and 1916.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN 1901 AND 1916.

	Population.	Year.	Deaths from Tuberculosis.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.
Ottawa	... 59,938	... 1901	... 139	... 2.2
Hamilton	... 52,034	... 1901	... 95	... 1.6
Ottawa	... 96,720	... 1916	... 133	... 1.37
Hamilton	... 104,330	... 1916	... 87	... 0.80

It will be seen at once that while the City of Hamilton has increased its population by exactly 100 per cent., the death-rate from tuberculosis has been reduced exactly 50 per cent. If we apply the increase of population found in 1916, we could say that the death-rate has been again reduced by 50 per cent. comparatively. In 1901 the death-rate of

Ottawa was excessive and the decline of nearly one per 1,000 may be taken under the circumstances as most illustrative of the beneficial effects of education, both to the public and medical profession in making use of the sanatorium. But, apart from these broad results, essential interest attaches to the age-periods at which patients have received sanatorium treatment as seen in the following table. It may be mentioned incidentally that in both instances there is a city dispensary at which any cases suspected of being tuberculous may go for free diagnosis. That in Hamilton is, however, directly under the care of the Superintendent of the Sanatorium and his assistant, whose experience is a most important factor in early diagnosis:—

TABLE SHOWING SANATORIUM CASES BY AGES IN OTTAWA AND HAMILTON.

Age Period.	Ottawa.		Hamilton.	
	March 1st, 1916,		October 1st, 1915	
	to March 1st, 1917.		to September 30th, '16.	
0-9	...	2	...	48
10-14	...	16	...	40
15-19	...	38	...	22
20-24	...	...	...	36
25-29	...	62	...	43
30-34	...	...	...	30
35-39	...	48	...	12
40-44	...	...	...	9
45-49	...	32	...	2
50-54	...	...	...	1
55-59	...	9	...	1
60 and over	...	4	...	2
	211		246	

(To be continued.)

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE BILL.

Correspondence with the President of the Local Government Board *re* Deputation (*vide* Minutes of Council, page 107, June number of PUBLIC HEALTH.)

(1) Letter to President.

Society of Medical Officers of Health.
1, Upper Montague Street, W.C.
26th June, 1918.

SIR,—*re* MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE BILL,—

The Society of Medical Officers of Health notes, with pleasure, that the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons the other night.

The Society approves the Bill now before Parliament, it being, in its opinion, of urgent National

importance that Local Authorities in England and Wales should, at once, receive the same powers, relative to the health of expectant mothers and nursing mothers, and children under 5 years of age, as are, at present, enjoyed by Local Authorities in Scotland and Ireland. At the same time, the Society, being of opinion that maternity and child welfare is but a part of the general problem of Public Health, and cannot, with advantage, be divorced therefrom, ventures to suggest that the objective in view in administration in this matter should be to have one health committee in every area responsible for all the health work of that area, and that, consequently, Clause 2 of the Bill might, with advantage, be amended so as to enable the Local Authority to establish one committee for all health purposes, including maternity and child welfare, with the Medical Officer of Health nominated as the principal administrative and executive officer and official correspondent of any committee set up under the Bill.

The Society is of opinion, and very strongly of opinion, that these suggested amendments are important, and I am instructed by the Society to say that, if you so desire, and if you think any useful purpose would be served, a small deputation will do itself the honour to wait upon you, with a view to further emphasising the Society's suggestions on this matter, on hearing from you a date and hour convenient.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY,
Honorary Secretary.

To the Rt. Hon. Wm. Hayes Fisher, M.P.,
President of the Local Government Board.
Whitehall, S.W.1.

(2) Letter from President.

Local Government Board Office,
53386, M.3. Whitehall, S.W.1.
1918. 4th July, 1918.

SIR,

I am directed by the President of the Local Government Board to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th ult., and to state that he has noted the objections of the Society of Medical Officers of Health to Clause 2 of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill, and will give them careful consideration.

Mr. Hayes Fisher does not think it necessary to trouble a Deputation to attend.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. J. A. HALL,
(*For Assistant Secretary*)

J. Priestley, Esq., Hon. Secretary,
Society of Medical Officers of Health.