

The Hospital World.

NOVA SCOTIA'S CRUSADE AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

By ANNIE MARION MACLEAN, Chicago.

In common with thinking people everywhere, the inhabitants of the little sea-girt province of Nova Scotia have been awakened to the necessity of action in regard to the devastating prevalence of consumption. The maritime situation is undoubtedly responsible in a measure for the prevalence of the disease, yet, as is being urged now, ignorance and carelessness are more blamable factors. Until recently, consumptives coughed their lives away amid intimate family relations, cared for by physicians who in the main were unable to overcome popular prejudice sufficiently to isolate the patient.

Among the wealthy classes changes of climate and treatment have always been tried, and to such, of late years, the open-air sanatoriums have proved a source of great relief. But the people of abundant means can always look after themselves, so they have not been at any time objects of special concern. It is rather the middle and lower classes who need attention, and for such the government has lately provided a place. Even's had been shaping themselves towards this end for some time, although the unobservant were not prepared for the outcome. For some years spasmodic efforts had been made by local physicians to instruct the people in regard to the nature of the disease and the dangers arising from dry sputum, but in most cases such efforts met with little response. Advice and lectures seemed to fall on sterile ground. The majority held to the view that consumption was incurable, and death only a matter of time. The first important object lesson to the contrary was furnished by a physician in the town of Wulfvile, whose paternal feelings spurred him to do for his afflicted daughter what his science had taught him should be done for all. Thus it happened that the first sanatorium for the open-air cure of tuberculosis of the lungs was opened nearly a decade ago. At first it was only a cottage high up on a hill, but the father spent his skill there and rescued his child from an untimely grave. This did more than many lectures to popularise the idea that institutional care insuring rational living might be better for all concerned than the commoner home treatment.

Prejudice still exists. It is objected by some that the patient is in this way unfitted to live the normal social life, and must perforce continue to spend his days rambling over the hills and his nights sleeping in the big outdoors. This objection, however, does not concern us here, as this discussion relates purely to the efforts that have been made to stamp out an all too common disease. But individual efforts could never have the authority of governmental action, and so Dr. De Witt's

Sanatorium has never been on a paying basis. He has been fighting for a cause, and incidentally treating many without cost. He is rewarded now that his government has entered upon the crusade. The inspiration for this was gained partly from the Dominion Tuberculosis Commission and partly from observation of this and other experiments coupled with an appeal from the ablest physicians who felt keenly the need for reform. In response, then, to this apparent demand the provincial government opened, the 1st of last July, an institution where consumption can be treated scientifically. This sanatorium was erected by means of an appropriation of about 30,000 dollars, and is located on a sandy hill in the pine woods just overlooking the town of Kentville, midway between Halifax and Annapolis in one of the best protected parts of the Cornwallis Valley. The building is two stories in height, and with its broad piazzas and attractive reception-rooms and hall has none of the appearance of a public institution. It is rather like a well-kept summer home. As the method of treatment consists of open air and rational diet, the house is constructed for this end, all bedrooms opening directly on verandas twelve feet wide, and within easy reach of sun rooms. By night the beds are rolled outside, and there the patient sleeps until the weather becomes too inclement. During the winter months they will sleep inside, but with the outside doors wide open, so that a cold current will pass directly through the rooms. Blankets and hot-water bags will keep the beds comfortable, and the rooms will be warm when the occupants rise in the morning. If there is healing in fresh air, this method of treatment should certainly be curative.

As at present constructed the ground floor has ten bedrooms, reception-room, dining-room, library, dispensary, laboratory, lavatories, and cloak rooms, besides linen rooms, diet kitchen and baths, all of these opening into a spacious hall. On the floor above are bedrooms, bath-rooms, hydro-therapeutic-rooms, and the quarters for matron and nurses. Under the present arrangement the lower bedrooms and verandas are given to men, while the upper rooms are kept for women—an ideal division, as it thus gives to women the security their natural timidity requires when sleeping out of doors. The servants have their living quarters in an annexe, where are also the kitchen store-rooms and laundry.

There is no resident physician as persons in the advanced stages of the diseases are not admitted, and regular attendance is not required. The government has, however, appointed Dr. Woodworth, of the town of Kentville, visiting physician, and he calls every day to see that the general orders are being carried out. An air of invalidism does not prevail, and the patients occupy themselves out of doors practically all of their waking hours.

The sanatorium is open only to persons residing

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