

28. They sing of the golden Sigurd, and the face without a foe,
And the lowly man exalted, and the mighty brought alow ;
And they say, when the sun of summer shall come aback to the land,
It shall shine on the fields of the tiller that fears no heavy hand ;
That the sheaf shall be for the plougher and the loaf for him that
sowed
Through every furrowed acre where the son of Sigurd rode.
—William Morris, "Story of Sigurd, the Volsung,"
Book III, p. 203.
29. When God's warm justice is revealed—
The kingdom that the Father planned—
His children all will equal stand
As trees upon a level field.
There each one has a goodly space—
Each yeoman of the woodland race—
Each has a foothold on the Earth,
A place for business and for mirth.
—Edwin Markham, "Lincoln and Other Poems," p. 49.
30. No privilege bars a tree's access
To Earth's whole store of preciousness.
The trees stand level on God's floor,
With equal nearness to his store. —Ibid.
31. Timon : Why should you want ? Behold, the earth hath roots ;
Within this mile break forth a hundred springs ;
The oaks bear mast, the briers scarlet hips ?
The bounteous housewife, Nature, on each bush
Lays her full mess before you. Want ! Why want ?
—Shakspeare : "Timon of Athens," Act IV., Scene 3.
Timon : Common mother, thou, (digging)
Whose womb immeasurable, and infinite breast
Teems and feeds all. —Ibid.



HOSPITALS AND LAND VALUES

ADDRESS OF R. B. CAPON, OF MONTREAL.

It has probably been thought that there can be no immediate connection between our modern hospital system and the economic reform we call single tax. My humble effort, this evening, shall be to point out the truth, if such it be, that hospitals flourish under our present system of taxation, and that the growth of our hospital systems can only receive a genuine check by the application of the remedy known as the taxation of land values.

We live in a time commonly called the Christian era, when Bibles, churches and preachers abound. It is frequently stated that we are in the midst of the highest civilization the world has ever seen. There are those among us who so firmly believe that statement that they undergo considerable financial sacrifice and undertake considerable pecuniary obligation to send missionaries to the Chinese, Hindoos and Kaffirs. So enlightened are we that we commonly regard the inhabitants of foreign countries—perhaps other than European countries should be designated—as "*living in darkness*," and we sing in our orthodox sanctuaries with becoming fervor that "the heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone." Now, sir, the heathen may or may not

be so enlightened as we are, but it has often struck me very forcibly that the "heathen Chinese" in the matter of doctors and hospitals are far ahead of the enlightened heathen of Europe and North America in this twentieth century. I am told the Chinese only pay their doctors *when they are well*, that as soon as sickness comes the doctor's pay stops—thus affording him a very powerful incentive to efforts to find the *cause* of the disease, so that the *cause* may be removed as speedily as possible, his patient restored to health, and his salary renewed.

If modern civilization had been working on the same method, who can deny but that we would probably have fewer hospitals and less disease to-day, because the causes of disease would have been discovered and *exposed*, and measures would have been taken to avoid the causes, and thus the diseases springing from them. To quote from Dr. Nicholls, a celebrated English physician :

"If, in any way, doctors could be paid according to results, their emoluments increasing with the health and diminishing with the diseases of the community, we might probably lower the death rate to its normal standard. On this point there is one very striking illustration. Convicts were once transported to the British Penal Colonies in private vessels by contract, at so much a head for the number *embarked*. The ship owners were respectable men, the officers of the ships perhaps as good as could be selected, but the mortality was frightful, amounting to fifty and even sixty per cent. during the voyage. At length the form of contract was altered. Instead of the ship owners being paid per head on the number *embarked*, they were only paid per head *on the number landed alive*; so that the ship-owners lost by every person who died on the passage. This form of contract changed the whole face of things. Attention, or the efficient stimulus of interest, was directed to the causes of mortality; ventilation and other appliances were sedulously attended to; the merchant, at his own proper cost, provided a medical officer to take charge of the convicts, and the remuneration of that officer was proportioned to the number landed alive. The result was a mortality of only one and a half per cent. The forty-eight to sixty-eight on the hundred, or more than half, were then, in the earlier voyages, simply murdered—not wilfully, but by selfish and criminal neglect. *If the salaries of municipal officers*, the income of physicians, the pecuniary interests of all who are concerned with the public health, could be reached in the same way, we should soon reach the minimum of disease and mortality; a shocking case; but are not people dying all around us from similar causes, the neglect of governments and the selfish *greed of landlords and others?*"

All this by way of introduction. If we are a godly people—if cleanliness is next to godliness—if moral and scientific enlightenment should bring ability to resist disease and freedom from it, why then, with the increase of Christian knowledge and the dispersion of ignorance have we had everywhere an increase of doctors, medical colleges and hospitals? If we are what we claim to be—highly civilized and still progressing—why is there not yearly less need for doctors, less of disease and less need for hospitals? Why do we keep on discovering complaints like appendicitis, not known years ago, and which involve skillful and expensive operations, which more often than not appear to kill the patient? In Montreal we have the Notre Dame Hospital, the Montreal General Hospital, the Royal Victoria, the Hotel Dieu, the Western Hospital, the Women's Samaritan Hospital and various others of public nature, as well as some flourishing private institutions, and now comes the proposition that the city shall put up an expensive *dual hospital* in one of the public parks for contagious diseases. Does increased enlightenment, does advancing civilization, does higher mental culture and scientific education necessarily mean greater liability to *disease*? I say no—*emphatically* NO. There must be *causes* at work to produce this state of things not commonly recognized, and the sooner we *discover* them and deal with them, the better for humanity.

What are the main causes of disease? Have they any connection with the Land Question? How would taxation of land values affect those causes? These are the vital questions of my paper: meet them fairly and squarely, and I think before the evening is over I can convince you the Single Tax is the chief method by which to do away with the hospitals or stop their growth, and, in fact, make them dwindle away where they now alarmingly flourish.

What are the causes of disease? Let us answer that by asking what are the known conditions essential to good health? Must we not have sunlight in plenty, fresh air in abundance, pure water for drinking and washing, sufficient of good food, enough of proper clothing, proper shelter from cold and wet, and also proper occupation which shall afford due exercise to body and mind—occupation in which there shall be the elements of hope and satisfaction, in which reasonable intelligent effort shall have its just reward?

If these are the essential conditions for the maintenance of health in a person born healthy, then must not the non-observance of these conditions, the want of the elements named, be the *causes of disease*?

Let me fall back on medical evidence to convince you in the matter. Says Dr. Nichols again:

“For light, have darkness or deep shade or gloom, and you shall see pallor, a feeble circulation, a low vitality, tuberculous disease, scurvy, goitre, blindness, deafness, deformity, idiocy, a miserable life, and a premature death. Thick curtains will give a fashionable pallor to the complexion, and they will also give many fashionable diseases.”

Dr. Koch, the celebrated German scientist, speaking on the subject of tuberculosis, said:

“The overcrowded dwellings of the poor they had regarded as the real breeding places of tuberculosis. It was out of them that disease always cropped up anew, and it was to the abolition of these conditions that they must first and foremost direct their attention if they wished to attack the evil at its root, and to wage war against it with effective weapons.”

A short time ago a Paris correspondent claimed that tuberculosis and alcoholism were on the increase in France because of the increase in the taxation there of foodstuffs. He contended that there was relatively more tuberculosis in France than in England, because the British system did not tax the workingman's food and enabled him to live cheaply as compared with his French neighbors with their protective system. He advocated the complete removal of taxes from necessities to superfluities and a careful attention to sanitary provisions. Such a man ought to be ready for a tax on land values.

Nichols again says ordinary impure air is an abundant cause of disease—foul air fails to invigorate and fills the system with impurities, leaving it a prey to scarlet fever, smallpox, yellow fever, typhus or cholera.

Again: Bad food, insufficient food or too much food must be the causes of disease; also men die of famine. In London, in some seasons, there are coroners' inquests every day, with the verdict “Died of Starvation.”

“But where one dies of such actual and immediate want, many sink slowly of disease brought on by insufficient and improper nutrition. The common food of the very poor in England is bread—the dry, alummy, adulterated bread of the bakers for the poorer classes, who make large loaves by over-raising, destroying the nutritive properties of the flour. The bran, which is the richest part of the wheat in flesh-forming nutriment, is reserved for cattle. This bread is eaten, perhaps with a little grease (dripping) or cheap manufactured butter, made of horse fat, or bone fat, or better dry, with a weak infusion of something called tea, sometimes colored with a white liquid, which one may see retailed in the streets of East London as milk at a penny a quart. Refuse potatoes, stale cabbage and turnips, and staler herrings form the usual diet of hundreds of thousands. Only the more prosperous

achieve the luxury of a bit of pork and some potatoes for a Sunday dinner. There is always the temptation to buy what is cheap, and in animal food cheap generally means nasty. Extravagant as may be the prices of West End London tradesmen, the poor actually pay for rent, food and clothing more in proportion to what they get than the rich. Their *rents* are higher, their food, even to pennyworth's of tea and sugar, pays a larger profit. And the stuff they get, after being robbed in price, weight and measure, is not fitted to maintain them in health—is, on the contrary, a fertile source of disease and of premature mortality, producing low types of fevers, bowel diseases and scrofula."

With these statements in mind there is no cause to wonder at the fact that of 11,000 men in Manchester who volunteered for service in the War in South Africa 8,000 were at once rejected, and eventually only 1200 were able to meet the standard tests.

"In beautiful Edinburgh," said Professor Patterson at a recent meeting of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, "they found that in 1901 complaint was made that some three thousand children were living in a state of destitution and semi-starvation, and that of these 700 were living under such deplorable conditions that it was necessary to withdraw them from their homes and to find for them temporary relief in a shelter."

Mr. Bramwell Booth, in his report of the Salvation Army social operations at home for the year ending 30th Sept., 1901, gives the following statistics :

"Meals supplied at cheap food depots, 2,958,099 ; cheap lodgings for the homeless, 1,615,768 ; cash received for food and lodgings, £35,825 ; applications for work registered at labor bureaux, 11,246 ; persons received into factories, 3,515 ; number for whom temporary or permanent employment has been found, 10,372."

On Dec. 14, 1901, the Baroness Burdett Coutts, asking aid for the "Destitute Children's Dinners Society," wrote a letter to the *London Times*, in which she said :

"The number of dinners given last season was 158,855, and the children's little contributions toward the cost of them amounted to £ 309, 13 s., 4 d. The work was carried out by those in charge of it with careful supervision, sympathy, and thoughtful kindness. . . . The importance of continuing those dinners long enough to produce some lasting effects upon the children's physical, moral, and mental health has received special attention. The report from which I have already quoted, says, 'There are no starving children in London outside the Poor Law.' They are underfed. They are weak, rickety, sickly children whose constitutions and frames want a tonic. It is vital, therefore, that the healthy, vitalising meals should be of sufficiently long continuance for each child to act as a tonic to the constitution. To give a dinner ticket here and there, now and then, is no use in this direction. It is simply throwing away the money of the charitable."

"Many of the men fighting for their country in South Africa were lads who in their childhood found their share of food and comfort in our dining rooms where the foundation of their manhood was laid."

What food for thought we have here ? And what argument for the taxation of land values when we reflect that these children are the offspring of men and women who pay to land-owners annually for the right to live in London alone (exclusive of house rent and taxes) the sum of 85,000,000 dollars ? Why are these children underfed ? Why are they paupers ? Why do they live on the verge of starvation and a certain select few extort so much money from their parents for no service whatever but only a permission to occupy land no landlord ever made or could make ? Would these children not be better housed, fed and clothed if the parents had not to pay this enormous ground rent first out of their earnings, and accept that which was left for their sustenance ?

Anent housing problems, Sir Robert Giffen says :

"If the Glasgow Corporation are to make a great impression on the housing of the poor, they will have to accommodate in the end probably 100,000 families."

Speaking of the Rowley district, Glasgow, the medical officer recently said overcrowding was on the increase. On one occasion he served notices upon a row of houses, and a number of people had to sleep in the streets for weeks. People were unable to obtain houses. One of the councillors on Monday suggested that the Council would have to provide refugee camps.

"To this it may be added that as refugee camps would require to be built on land, the Council would have to settle with the landlords before the camps were built. If access to the land was obtained, the people would find means to build houses for themselves."

Mr. Taylor, London County Council, told the Glasgow Corporation Housing Conference last month that the L. C. Council had paid no less than £100,000 per acre for land for housing purposes.

Impure water is a cause of disease.

In 1858 a ship with 500 men on board lay in the river Hooghly for six weeks in the hottest weather without losing a man, while the cholera raged on all the vessels around her. The chief difference was that while the crews of the other vessels drank the river water the crew of the unscathed vessel had an unlimited supply of distilled water. It is unnecessary to prove to you that bad drainage and also bad sewerage or none at all, and also bad, cheap plumbing, are frequent causes of disease.

Says Dr. Nicholls :

"Insufficient clothing, and the lack of comfortable shelter from the inclemencies of climate, are frequent causes of disease. A cold week in winter raises the mortality of London hundreds above the average. In a church or chapel crowded with poor, in winter, one can scarcely hear the preacher for the coughing. Bronchitis, and inflammations of the lungs or its lining membrane, carry off great numbers. Children die of croup, whooping cough, and congestive diseases. Then cold makes people huddle together and shut out the air, so that, if they do not perish of chill, they are weakened and filled with impurities for lack of ventilation. Cleanliness is neglected for a similar reason. The skin is clogged with dirt, and its horny surface is less sensitive to cold, but its functions are suspended, and the body thereby diseased. A 'cold' is the suspension of the action of the skin, and a thereby increased and disordered action of the mucous membrane. And so poverty, in its lack of the necessities and comforts of life, is a very serious cause of disease, which disease intensifies poverty and its miseries."

Nichols continues :

"*Excessive labor*, especially protracted labor in unhealthy conditions, in heated workshops and factories, in bad air, in cramped positions, and exposed to irritating dust or poisonous vapors, is a fruitful cause of disease. Steel filers, brass workers, workers in mercury, arsenic, lead and antimony, workers in shoddy factories and bakeries, are short-lived and suffer from special diseases. Lead causes constipation and paralysis; the makers of lucifer matches are liable to a horrible necrosis of the jaws; metallic dust, and even the flour of mills and bakeries, clog the lungs and cause consumption. But shoemakers, tailors, milliners, artificial flower-makers, suffer scarcely less from the bad air of crowded and unventilated shops and factories. Among all our manufacturers there goes on the manufacture of disease and death. The agricultural laborer is laid up with rheumatism from hard work, exposure and too much cider. The town artisan dies of bad air, dust and beer. Literary men break down early with sedentary brain work and stimulants. There is no healthful order of industry, but a great disorderly battle of life, with its wounded, disabled, dying victims.

"Depressing emotions favor tendencies to disease. Dread, fear, terror, seem to have a

very direct influence upon the spread of epidemic diseases, while courage resists them. Those who attempt to fly from plague or cholera fall victims; those who manfully face them and help to nurse the sick, commonly escape. Care, the anxiety of the poor about their means of living, reduces their vitality and makes them an easy prey to the physical causes of disease.

"Epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases have a double origin; first, in the exhaustion and impurity which make the liability to disease, and secondly in the contagious matter or determining cause of the particular form of disease.

"Small pox, for example, is a disease of filth, spreading chiefly in the poorer quarters of large towns, in bad air, and where unhealthy conditions offer the predisposing causes. Small pox matter, however carried or blown about, produces small pox in those who are susceptible to its influence. The clean and healthy, the pure and strong, often entirely escape this and other contagious diseases. Bad air and absence of light are evident causes of tuberculous diseases. Six to eight hours a day is time enough for any kind of severe or monotonous toil.

"Dyspepsia and constipation are causes of numerous maladies. Dyspepsia comes from bad diet, bad air, and nervous exhaustion."

There are various other causes of disease which cannot be enumerated here to-night, but those mentioned are, I believe, the most important agents in filling our hospitals, and indeed render those important institutions in our present imperfect state of civilization absolutely necessary. Therefore let it not be understood that I deprecate hospitals. When a man or child has small pox, scarlet fever or any other disease, or when a boy has broken a leg or had a hand torn off in a factory wheel, by all means let us see that they have the best attention that human love and ingenuity and medical skill can devise; but if there be ways by which small pox and scarlet fever can be prevented—if, by wise precaution, factory accidents can be prevented or minimized, is not the ounce of prevention worth a pound of cure?

* * * *

THE IMPROVED ALPHABET

BY MISS MYRTLE STUMM.

[Read by her at the Conference of the Women's National Single Tax League, Thursday night, June 26th, at the Tuxedo, New York City.]

A is for Avarice, ancient as Adam;
(For the things that he wanted, we know that he had 'em)
The greed of this world is a thing to regret,
And it makes life so wretched for those who can't get.

B is for Beef-trust,—a late happy thought,
Of someone who thinks we *eat* more than we ought.
And the former glad cry of the full dinner pail
Is turned to a dry bread and vegetable wail.

C for Co-education,—a lucky experiment.
(If I were a man I'd like ladies where e'er I went.)
This old-fashioned notion of keeping them out of things
Just hinders progression, like the clipping of chicken wings.

D stands for Drunkenness. O what a curse!
For the folks who imbibe may from bad go to worse.
Some drink without reason, and others to drown
All the sorrows they suffer, from poverty down.