

The Church's Crusade Against Consumption

Twenty Thousand Congregations Join in Fight.

WITHIN the past four months the churches of over 100 different cities in the United States, all the principal religious denominations, and several interdenominational societies, have united in a campaign against consumption, according to a statement issued by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.

Notable campaigns have been conducted by the allied churches of New York, Brooklyn, Pittsburgh, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Washington, Chicago, Providence, Baltimore, Trenton, Seattle, Philadelphia and many other cities. In most of these places a special Sunday has been set aside on which sermons about tuberculosis have been preached in the various churches. So successful has been this method of declaring the gospel of fresh air, that it is being

adopted by pastors all over the country.

In several of the larger religious denominations definite resolutions by some of the local ministerial organizations, allying these associations with the tuberculosis movement, have been adopted.

CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADS.

Foremost in the fight against consumption is the Roman Catholic church. In this church, under the direction of Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia, an educational crusade against tuberculosis is being carried on by all of the parishes and missions. As a result over 125,000 school children in 13,000 parishes are being reached. The clergy of the church have been asked also to instruct their congregations on the dangers and methods of preventing tuberculosis, for the purpose of bringing the simple doctrine of the cure and prevention of this disease to every one of the 17,000,000 Catholics in the United States.

The work of religious bodies in the war against tuberculosis received a great impetus in 1908, when Emmanuel Church, of Boston, under the leadership of Dr. Joseph H. Pratt and Reverend Elwood H. Constance, started a movement for the treatment of tuberculous patients in their homes under the supervision of the church. As the patients held weekly meetings at the church for instruction and advice from the physicians in charge, the organization are also being held in many of the associations, and, in general, the campaign against tuberculosis is being linked with the general crusade for a sound body and a sound mind.

UNITED SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENTHUSIASTS has also taken an active interest in the tuberculosis propaganda, and the international convention of that body will be held in St. Paul from July 7 to 12, one of the large tuberculosis exhibits of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis will be shown.

An active campaign of education will be carried on among the 100 delegates who will act as missionaries throughout the world with the message.

CAMPAIGN UNDENOMINATIONAL.

The religious campaign is not only

undenominational, but it is also international. The Young Men's Christian Association, for instance, has started an active crusade against tuberculosis, and the International Physical Department instruction is being given concerning the nature and dangers of consumption to all of the men and boys who come under that branch of the association. Educational lectures are also being held in many of the associations, and, in general, the campaign against tuberculosis is being linked with the general crusade for a sound body and a sound mind.

30,000 CHURCHES ENGAGED.

The activity of the church, however, as a center of education in tuberculosis, is of much more recent growth. In fact, almost all of the preventive educational work of the church has been accomplished in the last four months. The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis estimates that there are now over 20,000 church congregations to whom the message of the prevention and care of tuberculosis has been preached, and the number is increasing daily.

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INVESTIGATES STARCH AND SAYS IT IS HARMFUL

BEWARE of the starch-eating habit. In its own way it is as terrible in its effects as morphine, whisky or cocaine.

The most deplorable phase of this strange appetite is that it makes its first appeal to vain girls who desire to be beautiful.

It will come as a surprise to most people that such a common, supposedly harmless, but not overnourishing food as starch has the power to enslave and control. The starch-eating habit is one that many starch-eaters in New York, most of them young girls employed in public laundries, where starch is easily obtained, have adopted.

Dr. J. R. Gibbs has made a study of the habit of starch-eating. In the last 20 years he has had under observation so

many cases of starch-eating that they had ever before seen.

He informed her that the teeth were whiter than they had ever been before. She confided this discovery to another girl in the laundry, who informed her that she had been starching for long time.

The second girl had a complexion which was much admired. It was white and colorless but very clear. The patient's informant told her that many laundry girls chewed starch for the

soothing effect it had on the stomach.

"She chewed starch all that day. The longer she chewed the starch the sweeter it became. The starch was so sweet that the teeth were whiter than they had ever been before. She confided this discovery to another girl in the laundry, who informed her that she had been starching for long time."

So my patient gave up gum and chewed starch constantly. True, her complexion improved, but she did not know it. A year, white complexion is just an indication of impoverished blood. She kept on.

word again and again, I labored, with her three months before she finally gave up starch.

"From this girl I got my insight into a habit after 20 years of practice. It is a habit I do not profess to understand. Like many working girls she was a gum-chewer. I wonder how many gum-chewers realize the strength of the gum which has over them. This girl one day forgot to stock up with gum before going to the laundry. Once at her work she could not get away. She went about the shop to get some gum as she worked. Her jaws had been incessantly in motion. On this day she was constantly conscious of the absence of the gum. She was thinking of the starch she chewed. She chewed her hands-free, but it had not the consistency of gum and did not satisfy. The thought of gum became almost an obsession. She chewed starch all day. The longer she chewed the starch the sweeter it became. The starch was so sweet that the teeth were whiter than they had ever been before. She confided this discovery to another girl in the laundry, who informed her that she had been starching for long time."

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