

the human race, and the very substantial and tangible material benefit to arise by checking the ravages of the disease and preserving the health of the people, so that their energies shall not be sapped by suffering or diverted from bread-winning pursuits and monopolized in ministering to the sick, which influenced me two years ago to ask the General Assembly of 1902 to create the said Tuberculosis Commission to investigate the prevalence of the disease, its cause, and to devise means to restrain it, impels me now with equal earnestness to urge your Honorable Body to action.

In the face of scientific research it can not be successfully *denied* that it is not only possible, but entirely practicable, to confine the spread of the disease from one person to another, and in some cases also to arrest its development in the individual upon whom it has seized.

No public facilities exist in Maryland for the treatment of tuberculosis, and we consequently lose every year many thousand dollars and many hundred lives.

The most powerful and the most pathetic illustration of the extent of the disease is the indifference of the public, born of long familiarity with its presence, to its frightful ravages. If 10,000 people in Maryland were inconvenienced to-day with a harmless epidemic we would be amazed and filled with consternation, but the presence of the same number of tuberculosis cases, most of them hopeless, occasions little comment. As a whole people we take the untimely death from one disease of 2,500 of our citizens in a single year, with hopeless, helpless fatalism.

If we could rid the subject of all the finer humanitarian considerations and consider it carefully from the baldest, coldest pecuniary standpoint we would be forced to the conclusion that it is a paying business investment to grapple with this problem and solve it.

The loss in the productive capacity of the State by reason of the great number of people incapacitated by tuberculosis and those whose time must be given to nursing the sick must be enormously greater than the cost of caring for the sick in scientifically arranged institutions, and adopting simple precautionary measures.