

National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis,

DUBLIN BRANCH.

Royal College of Physicians,

Kildare Street,

4 St. William's Square

Dublin. June 11<sup>th</sup> 1910.

Dear Professor Osler,

In reply to your note of June 6<sup>th</sup> regarding the organisation of our Branch of the National Association, I think it may be of some slight service if I give you a sketch of its history and of the work which it has done.

Its foundation was primarily due to the Dublin University Biological Association, a body composed chiefly of medical students at Trinity College, Dublin.

During the Session of 1898-9 the subject of the Prevention of Consumption had been considered at the Meetings

of the Association and a memorial  
was transmitted, I think at the  
instigation of Dr Percy Kirkpatrick,  
to the Royal Academy of Medicine  
asking that body to take steps  
to bring public opinion to bear upon  
the matter.

This resulted in the calling of a  
Conference which met at the Royal  
College of Physicians under the  
Presidency of the Lord Lieutenant  
Earl Cadogan, K.G., on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1899.  
The Marlborough House Meeting had  
just been held and it was decided  
to work in conjunction with the  
newly formed National Association.  
Branches were subsequently formed  
in Belfast, Cork, and Dubyn.,  
The first Secretaries of the Dublin  
Branch was Dr J. Howe Dunham,  
while Dr Joseph Carroll and Professor  
McWhinney acted as Treasurers.



These gentlemen under the Committee carried on the work of the Branch until 1902 when the offices of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer were amalgamated and transferred to me.

Since then the executive work has been in my hands under the direction of the Committee the present constitution of which I give on the enclosed slip.

From the first we had difficulty in overcoming the dead weight of indifference which amounted almost to fatalism. The masses regarded tubercle as "the will of God", the educated considered prevention in the light of modern science, as a medical fad. We were regarded as amiable visionaries and it seemed that we were but voices crying in the wilderness. Still as I look back on these years I am amazed at the amount of work we were able to do on an income of about £30 per annum!

We worried the Railway Companies about the cleaning of carriages and got them to put up notices regarding spitting in the cars and stations. We did the same with the Tramways Company and got both to obtain from the Board of Trade sanction to a by-law making spitting an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding 40s. We got the Board of National Education to send officially our pamphlets to every national school teacher in Ireland. They also sent out our poster to be displayed in every school in their system.

Thirty six Technical Instruction Committees under the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction distributed our literature, while individual officers of the Department e.g. itinerant instructors, aided materially in this work.

We reached also St. Patrick's College for the training of the Roman Catholic Clergy at Maynooth, the Dublin Diocese



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Synod of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Dublin Presbytery, the Dublin Methodist Council, the Post Office, many commercial firms, the Trades Institute, the Workingmen's Clubs, two important Tenement Companies and many other bodies.

In this way the Branch did an immense amount of pioneer work and we had sympathisers in almost every part of Ireland who were ready to lend a hand when the time came for the more active campaign.

In 1907 I brought before my Committee the question of having a small Tuberculosis Exhibit at the Dublin International Exhibition which was then in preparation. The Committee could not see their way to undertake the work and incur

expense which we had no money  
to meet, accordingly my modest  
scheme fell through.

Altogether independent of this, I derived  
excellency the Countess of Aberdeen,  
who had just started the Women's  
Health Association, learnt from  
Dr. Fiske Mackenzie of Philadelphia  
of the value of Tuberculosis Exhibitions  
in the States. She summoned a  
small meeting to consider the  
possibility of organising such an  
enterprise in connection with the  
International Exhibition.

Mrs Rushton as organising Secretary  
of the Women's Health Association  
and myself as Honorary Secretary  
of the Dublin Branch of the National  
Association became Honorary Secretaries  
of the Exhibition Committee.

The subsequent history of the  
movement is well known to you.  
led by a lady of position and personality



if took on a vigour it never had before and success is attesting its efforts to a degree greater than perhaps any of us had expected. How far this result has been due to pioneer work done by the Dublin Branch I cannot say, but I believe that our efforts played a not inconsiderable part in the matter. Practically all our active members have become engaged in one or other of the enterprises of the Women's Health Association and the Dublin Branch has passed into a condition of more or less suspended animation as a working body. It still exists however and its pamphlets are still circulated. There is a small credit balance at Bank.

I have no doubt that in a scheme for general reorganisation of the National Association, my Committee would join actively, and if a definite line

of work were assigned to the branch  
I think it could fulfil useful  
functions without clashing with the  
Womens' Health Association whose  
energies are scattered over so wide  
a field in its efforts towards social  
betterment.

Faithfully Yours  
Alfred. Boyd.

Professor Osler  
M.D., D.C.P.  
Regius Professor of Medicine  
Osford.

Dublin



National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis,

DUBLIN BRANCH.

Royal College of Physicians,

Kildare Street,

1910.

President.

The Earl Cadogan. K.G.

Vice - Presidents

The President. Royal College of Physicians.  
.. .. Royal College of Surgeons.  
.. .. Royal Academy of Medicine.

Committee

Dr Robert Brown. M.D. Rathmines.  
Sir Charles G. Cameron C.B., M.D. Dublin City.  
Dr James Craig. Fellow Registrar R.C.P.  
Z. P. Culverwell. F.J.C.D. Professor of Education.  
Dr J. Knox. Dunham.  
Dr Minian Falkner. Medical Super<sup>nt</sup> of Hospitals.  
Z. P. Dawcett - Town Clerk Rathmines.  
William Field, M.P.  
Dr J. Magee Finny.  
R. P. Bowen Durlong C.B.,  
Dr J. Lumsden.  
Professor Z. J. Mcweeney.  
Sir John W. Moore.  
Sir Christopher J. Nixon. Bart. D.L.  
Dr Joseph P. Carroll.  
Dr Alfred R. Parsons.  
Hon. Sec. - Dr Alfred E. Boyd.