

Congress held last year in Washington, "it is a slightly communicable malady" and "the element of infection has been somewhat overrated," according to the report of the Committee on the Prevention of Tuberculosis of State Charities' Aid Association of the State of New York. "Numerous investigations have shown that prolonged and repeated exposures are necessary to cause tuberculosis in a healthy person." This, however, should not delude us, for a large number of persons are unhealthy and a great many are being almost constantly exposed to the infection. About three or four feet probably marks the limit of the danger zone of droplet infection from a case of open tuberculosis. This may be avoided by having the patient cover his mouth when coughing. Consumptives should not kiss others (especially children) on the lips.

*Indirect* infection from man to man is probably the most frequent source of all, and yet the one which is most ignored. This may be largely avoided by burning all dressings, the disinfection by boiling (before being put in the general wash) of all handkerchiefs and linen used by consumptives. They should use separate dishes, knives, forks and spoons, which should be thoroughly scalded after use. They should sleep alone in a separate bedroom, free from carpets, curtains and upholstered furniture, and this room should be swept and dusted with moist brooms and cloths. They should use separate towels, and have their hands and face always kept scrupulously clean.

Books used by them should afterwards be disinfected or destroyed. All food should be covered or screened from flies.

Patients should use burnable sputum cups, cloths or paper napkins, which can be thrown in a paper bag and burned, or else covered receptacles, which are to be frequently disinfected. All sputum must be destroyed, and there should be disinfection of all dwellings after the death or removal of a consumptive.

Finally, all dwellings, schools, offices, shops and public buildings should be properly ventilated, for next to the proper care of infective cases nothing will prevent the spread of tuberculosis more than will abundance of light and fresh air in those places in which we live (and the same holds true for our cattle), for sunlight quickly destroys the bacilli and proper ventilation purifies the vitiated and oftentimes polluted inside atmosphere, while nothing yet known so greatly increases the resisting powers of the individual against the invasion of this insidious disease as does the continuous breathing of God's good fresh air.

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