

EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS, WITH REPORT OF CASES CURED.*

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The therapeutical results obtained in treating tuberculosis in the past are far from encouraging. The unfavorable prognosis, I fear, has created too great laxity in the profession and out of it.

Are medical men not often at fault?

Is there not a supineness or inertia affecting the rank and file of the great medical army the world over in regard to the treatment of tuberculosis? Various causes may be assigned for this: the chief reason, to be sure, is the unsuccessful treatment and unfavorable prognosis.

Again: the patient and his friends do not second the physician's efforts in making a cure. It is generally admitted that if the disease is treated carefully from the beginning, very much better results are to be obtained and some cures effected. I am also of the opinion that if there were more of that much abused commercialism existing, it would not only be better for the physician but still better for the patient and for suffering humanity at large.

Has not the time now come when some of the old dogmas, taught by our medical fathers, should be relegated to obscurity? There is not a member of our self-sacrificing profession prouder than I of our high-calling and the far-reaching blessings and untold alleviation of suffering wrought through the instrumentality of the medical profession; but as it is hard for a starving man to be a good Christian, so it is likewise difficult for a poorly paid physician to be a good philanthropist.

In these days of large combines and vast monopolies, the struggling masses look to the medical profession for gratuitous treatment: and they do not look in vain; but I surmise that the treatment they obtain is not of the very best or highest order, for how is it possible for physicians to supply the best for which they get nothing?

My sojourn on the Pacific Coast for a few years in Southern California introduced me to the western profession. There are two

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