

audience declares that prevention is impossible, but his personal use of some limited method is successful in the vast majority of patients, the result is to engender an unintelligent fear on the one hand, and a healthy skepticism on the other. If Boards of Health were able to inculcate a wholesome fear of the disease and to educate the masses to protect the tuberculous from others and from themselves, the results might be useful, but when, notification is assumed to have a talismanic influence upon the disease when the promulgated rules are incapable of comprehension, when the poor consumptive receives notice of what disposition is to be made of his body after death, and what is to be done to his abode after his removal, the fear engendered is not wholesome, nor does intelligence, courage and a desire to extend protection from it go with it. This perhaps explains the insignificant results of vigorous campaigns which have been carried on in various quarters. For more than sixty years the death rate from tuberculosis per ten thousand of the living has been gradually and evenly diminishing, but there is no evidence that the latter day agitation has had any influence which can be mathematically demonstrated for all that sufficient time has elapsed for such diminution to be evident if the means employed had been of avail. The campaign of education has gone on, perhaps the soil has been infertile.

Climate has been of great interest in the prophylaxis and treatment of all chronic respiratory diseases and very properly. Theoretically for tuberculosis, one which affords the maximum of sunshine and dryness of the air with a minimum of temperature change is the most desirable. The fact, however, remains that the air devoid or relatively devoid of moisture is diathermic, and this physical fact forbids a dry, and at the same time an equable climate. Further, as a dry climate is likely to obtain with a dusty atmosphere the theoretical and the practical do not coincide. Granted that the ideal is physically impossible, it is nevertheless true that there exist, localities which possess advantages which may be utilized, yet from mere weather reports, one must not decide, for beside mean temperatures and absence of humidity, many of the questions, such as suitable habitation, proper food, comfortable and congenial environment, an opportunity to practise a vocation or to indulge in legitimate distractions, or to share in a congenial sociability are always to be borne in mind. Among those of moderate means an opportunity to perform some wholly or partially remunerative labor is essential, not only for its wholesome effect on mind and body, but as well to reduce the tax which the community has to pay for the support of its defectives.

The open air treatment at present has the centre of the stage. In instances of closed disease, most remarkable results are often obtained under conditions of variegated weather which never could be dignified as climate. By the exercise of ingenuity there is probably no locality but