

A PECULIAR EFFECT OF THE TOXIN OF THE BACILLUS TUBERCULOSIS.

If there be one feature more than another which characterises the mental condition of tuberculous patients, it is the tendency to take a cheerful view of the future. Curiously enough this physical aberration exhibits a tendency to become more and more pronounced as the disease advances, reaching its acme during the terminal period. When the patient first seeks medical advice he displays a very natural apprehension concerning the condition of his lungs, and is greatly depressed when he learns that there is actual disease thereof. This state of mental depression persists for some time, indeed, if circumstances are favourable and partial recovery ensues, it may last almost indefinitely. As soon, however, as the disease becomes more or less generalized the sanguine disposition takes the upper hand, and the most disconcerting facts cannot do more than provoke an ephemeral spasm of depression. When such a patient undertakes a sea voyage in order to have a better chance of recovery, that is to say, at a comparatively early stage of the disease, he expresses gloomy apprehensions lest he should never see his native shores again, but when death is at hand he no longer hesitates to plan undertakings, which cannot possibly be executed until long after the time when he will have been laid to rest. This is not a question of individual temperament, indeed it may fairly be described as incidental to the disease. We know that certain drugs are provocative of mirth, while others leave unequivocal indications of mental depression, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the toxin secreted by the bacillus of tuberculosis exerts a specific action in this direction. Certain it is, that in no other disease, with the exception, perhaps, of certain cerebral lesions, do we meet with this extraordinary hopefulness in the face of the most disquieting symptoms, and the uniformity with which it is met with implies the presence in the organism of a disturbing influence which is constant in its incidence and exerts a disorganizing effect on the higher cerebral functions.—*The Medical Press*, July, 1898.

THE URINE OF HEALTHY INFANTS AND CHILDREN.

By FRANK S. CHURCHILL, M. D., CHICAGO.

Amount.—The daily amount of urine passed by his cases is much less than that recorded by most authors whom he had been able to consult, except Herz, whose analyses upon sixty cases, thirty girls and thirty boys, between six and fourteen