

applied in Portugal. In the kingdom of Naples this law was applied in all its rigor until the year 1848, and what was the result? The result generally was an evil incalculable. What was the result to the sufferers from tuberculosis? Nothing. The vigorous application of the law for two or three generations to those who were the victims of phthisis proved that it was without the least effect. No Neapolitan or Portuguese physician could verify the slightest diminution of phthisis during all this time.

These, says M. Germain Sée, are the results of ignorance; ignorance of the laws which govern the transmission and spread of the most fatal of human diseases among civilized nations. And now what is the true knowledge which M. Germain Sée would have us accept? He himself is as rigorous as the King of Naples ever was in regard to rule and ordinance, only his rule is infinitely simpler, and is one which every nurse could follow without injury or annoyance to any one—a rule which we hope every English nurse does follow scrupulously. The rule is to do away with the sputum expectorated by the phthisical or to destroy it; then all is said that can be said if this rule be correct.

As will be inferred, M. Germain Sée is a valiant partisan of the school of contagionists. In his eyes heredity as a factor in phthisis plays a very inferior part; and if his points were altogether admitted, the part allotted to it would, at the best, be secondary. Take away, he would say, the cause, the source of contagion, and by the act you take away the heredity, since heredity itself requires a root from whence to spring. But he lays himself open to question by his opponents when, in his zeal, he sums up the difficulties lying in the path of all true inquirers into primary causes by attributing every failure to ignorance of the hypothesis, or, as he designates it, the law of the transmission of the tuberculous bacillus. This is not just. It is but fair to assert that they who do not admit the premises of the contagionists are *not* ignorant of those premises. Opponents of the hypothesis may know the hypothesis as well as the contagionists themselves, but, knowing it, they may not accept the validity of it with such assurance of its certainty as to become convinced