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**Editorial Department.**

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**How to Prevent Consumption.**

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THERE is no disease whose nature and treatment is so full of interest to the community at large as consumption, because none is so prevalent and so generally fatal. Scarcely a person lives who has not lost a relative, a friend, or at least an acquaintance by the fell destroyer. But though familiar with its symptoms and its history and its presence, we are still to a great extent ignorant of its first cause, ignorant of its nature, and ignorant of its cure.

We shall not occupy space in giving our theories on these points. The discussion of theories belongs more to strictly medical journals. Our object is to give facts of a practical nature as far as we understand them. And in the present case, we desire to call attention to only one element, and a very important one in the character of consumption, that is, its transmission from parent to child. We say of this disease that

IT IS HEREDITARY.

By this we mean that consumptive parents are apt to have consumptive children. Or it may pass over one generation and appear in their grandchildren. This is a generally-accepted doctrine, supported by medical experience and public opinion. We are told that in one of the rural cemeteries of Massachusetts, over the grave of a man and his wife who had both died of consumption, is this inscription: "Insatiable disease! thou hast destroyed both parents: spare, O spare our children!" It would seem as though the minds of the dying parents were filled with the thought that they had transmitted the seeds of disease and death to their offspring; and scarcely one would deny that they had good grounds for their fear. Yet it does not follow that in any case consumption must necessarily be transmitted; on the contrary there is a certainty that

IT CAN BE PREVENTED.

While it is true that a tendency to consumption is transmitted from parent to child, it is equally true that in most cases, if proper precautions be followed from infancy to maturity, that tendency can be overcome, and the individuals become strong and healthy. But, to this end, years of watchfulness, of careful attention to details, and, it