

tuberculosis, as the specific bacteria rarely occur in any number in the mouth, but they are of importance in connection with other infectious diseases and with the otherwise unaccountable infection of operation wounds. This means of infecting wounds is thought to be of such importance that in some hospitals the operators wear masks. It appears at first to be rather too refined a measure, but it must be remembered that it requires only a few hundred pyogenic bacteria to establish pus formation. The operator takes care never to let a drop of sweat enter the wound, then why should he run the risk of introducing the smaller but more heavily bacteria-laden drops of saliva. Experiment shows that during ordinary talking for two minutes, ninety droplets may fall in a four inch circle at a distance of eight inches, each of these droplets containing dozens to thousands of bacteria. Under normal conditions this may not be of much importance, as the bacteria able to produce suppuration are ordinarily few in number.

But should the operator have a tonsillitis or other inflammatory condition of mouth or pharynx, some means of protection, as, for example, the wearing of a mask, is imperative.

The results of further experiments will be published hereafter.