

which collects the dust instead of driving it up into the air, and still more lately there has been devised the method of extracting dust by suction—the “vacuum” method—from all sorts of materials.

Such dust as lies on hard surfaces which would not be injured by being wetted, ought to be removed by a wet sponge which, of course, can quite easily be cleaned. It need only be wrung out of water: a bacillus wet, not merely in damp air, is a bacillus imprisoned.

Out-of-doors dust is by no means blameless in the spreading of disease; there is the London sore throat caused by the bacilli in the dust blown up from the wood-paving blocks of the streets. In dry weather in the country a septic sore throat prevails when the wind blows over manure-covered fields in Spring. Recently several diseases of children have been traced to road dust raised by the draughts of motor-cars. There is a tendency now to use wall-papers, for instance, of such a smooth surface that they can be washed without being destroyed. Rough soft papers should always be avoided as able to harbor much dust and germs. But even in a room, dustless so far as the eye is concerned, a person could be made tubercular provided the air was never changed and it never got any sun.

An indoor life is much more liable to lead to tubercular infection than an out-door one; in fact, we can put it positively and say that those who live in the open air do not contract Phthisis, and that if persons who are already tubercular live in the open air they will almost certainly be cured, unless indeed their cases have entered on the incurable stage.

It is to be remarked that aboriginal tribes—Red Indians for instance—living a wholly out-of-doors life do not contract Phthisis, but not from any special immunity therefrom, for, as soon as they begin to live in the badly ventilated houses of cities they contract Phthisis more readily than the civilized dwellers.

As every one knows, tubercular patients are nowadays treated by the open-air cure which simply consists in their breathing as much previously unbreathed air as possible: the Sanatorium is the modern representative of the cave or open air dwelling of our prehistoric ancestors who spent their days under the expanse of heaven surrounded by ozone and bathed by the sun.