

**BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK IN THE LABORATORY.\***

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THE great service rendered to humanity by the science of bacteriology in helping us to understand the nature of the disease under discussion is admitted by all.

While most of the bacteriological investigation and research must necessarily be done in the well-equipped laboratory, there is much that general practitioners outside of cities may do for the benefit of their patients by themselves making microscopical examinations of sputum, serum, urine, pus, etc., for those suspected of tuberculous disease.

It is my practice to make a microscopical examination of the sputum of patients with cough and expectoration lasting three weeks or more, especially if attended with elevation of temperature, disorder of digestion, or loss of flesh. In difficult or doubtful cases I seek the aid of the laboratory expert.

The advantage of having the specimens fresh and as frequently as desired; and, on the other hand, the annoyance of packing and sending away of samples, and the delay in finding out results, make the inducements strong for one to do this work for himself if possible.

The fact of having the necessary facilities for making these examinations helps us to retain the confidence of these patients to whom we are giving so grave a prognosis.

The value of the evidence gained by noting from time to time the number and size of the tubercle bacilli, the presence or absence of secondary infection, as indicated by the streptococci and other pyogenic organisms, cannot be overestimated.

In our management of these cases successful results can be attained in proportion to the degree that we can imitate the conditions found in climatic treatment, and the methods employed at sanatoria.

In the highlands in the north of Ontario there are many localities well adapted as sites for sanatoria. We find there moderate altitude, sandy soil, and good chances for drainage. Hills and pine forests afford protection from winds and changes of temperature. The air is pure and free from pathogenic dust.

To these localities many of our afflicted ones would go, because there would be no long and tiresome journey; no difficulty or danger from acclimatization, and not so great a dread of separation and death far from family and friends; and, lastly, lessened expense.

Can we not by persistent agitation induce our philanthropists and legislators to establish sanatoria in several parts of the Province, and by so doing help the great army of consumptives to a chance for restoration to health, and at the same time lessen the danger of infection to the healthy?

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