

increased enthusiasm, by frontal as well as by flank movements. There are still huge advances to be made. If one is by nature an optimist he is apt to look complacently at advances made, and to be blind to what is still defective—such, at least, looking backward, has been my attitude. I have been rejoicing in the demonstration that has been afforded during the last score of years with increasing force that tuberculosis, instead of being the hopeless disease that it used to be considered, is in the vast majority of cases curable. I have rejoiced in the work of Brehmer, Trudeau and others, which has shown how fresh air and rest and good food conquer the disease. This is so great an advance that one is apt to overlook or minimize the fact that these are but flank movements, and that the cure is both very prolonged and imperfect to this extent, that, although the lesions become encapsuled the contained bacilli are not surely killed, so that if the health and vitality of the individual be depressed it may happen that the bacilli take on growth again and the disease starts up once more. Your tuberculous individual, that is, can never under present conditions feel assured that he is out of the wood; he must always be careful of himself. We are content, that is, with imperfection.

Can we hope for nothing better, nothing more perfect?

The last few years have given us some very remarkable results in connection with another group of infections, those due to minute animal parasites. The tubercle bacillus, you will remember, is classed with the bacteria in general among the minute vegetable parasites. But with these diseases of animal origin it has for long been known that quinine kills the *hamamœba*, the parasite of malaria. Those who have had much experience in the tropics tell us that, properly administered, ipecacuanha has a like specific effect upon the amoeba of dysentery; and recently Thomas, a Canadian and graduate of McGill, has demonstrated that atoxyl, an arsenic compound, kills off the parasites of sleeping sickness circulating in the blood and the Trypanosomes, as they are termed, that set

up a series of diseases in horses and other animals; following upon which discovery Ehrlich has elaborated other arsenic compounds which in a single dose cure conditions of spirillosis, and destroy all the spirochætes in the organism.

Now, if this happens with animal parasites there is, so far as I can see, absolutely no reason why we should not discover other drugs which will have a like immediate action upon the bacteria of this disease. As a matter of fact, there is a disease which, like tuberculosis, is caused by one of the higher bacteria, by an organism closely related to the tubercle bacillus. I refer to Lumpy Jaw, or Actinomycosis, due to the *Actinomyces* — and this, we know, can be cured rapidly by large doses of Potassium Iodide. What we have before us is to investigate and investigate until we discover some drug or drugs which will surely cure Tuberculosis. There is still much before us physicians and bacteriologists: science in fact is never ending. And we from our side and you from yours have to continue with our shoulder to the wheel until Tuberculosis is as extinct among us, or as nearly extinct, as is that plague of old time—Leprosy.

Disraeli said: "Public health is the foundation upon which rest the happiness of the people and the power of the State. Take the most beautiful kingdom, give it intelligent and laborious citizens, prosperous manufactures, productive agriculture; let arts flourish, let architects cover the land with temples and palaces; in order to defend all these riches have first-rate weapons, fleets of torpedo boats; if the population remains stationary, if it decreases yearly in vigor and in stature, the nation must perish. And that is why I consider that the first duty of a statesman is the care of Public Health."

May we not hope that those sentiments will animate the powers that be in all our parliaments, and when they do we can assuredly look forward to the time when Tuberculosis which now takes a greater toll of human life and human activities greater than all other epidemic diseases combined, will be unknown among us, when it will be extinct as the fire among the thorns.