

clouds at noonday, only to return once more with adolescence as a dark storm-cloud, too often bringing rapid ruin and destruction with it; or if such be delayed, then only to leave constitutions as shattered ships, gradually but surely breaking up until they finally disappear in the deeper gloom. So generally spread, indeed, are the germs of this disease that the physician must ever be prepared to see them taking advantage of the invasion of every acute disease, as when in typhoid, pneumonia or pleurisy they make the attack at some vulnerable point when the vital resistance of the patient is at its lowest point."

Realizing the truth contained in this paragraph, it is apparent that there must always be a large number of cases of incipient tuberculosis, which will not be recognized as such until some more acute manifestation of the disease places the patient in the hands of some physician. That even then many cases are not diagnosed is quite within the experience of all. It must, therefore, appear evident that the problem of the treatment of tuberculosis, from the standpoint of a cure, whether in a sanatorium or elsewhere, depends primarily, other things being equal, upon the stage at which the patient comes under medical observation. I have collected data from various sources of information which will be useful in our consideration of this very essential point.

STAGE OF THE DISEASE AT TIME OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

In the laboratory of the Provincial Board of Health, specimens of sputum are examined from all parts of the Province, with information supplied on postcards. Of 138 specimens, Dr. J. J. Mackenzie gave the following results:

DURATING SYMPTOMS (REPORTED).		POSITIVE.	NEGATIVE.
One month and under.....	18	16.6 per cent.	83.4 per cent.
One to two months.....	26	34.6 "	43.4 "
Two to three months.....	14	50 "	50 "
Three to six months.....	27	55.5 "	43.5 "
Six to twelve months.....	28	46.4 "	53.6 "
One to two years.....	8	62.5 "	47.5 "
Over two years ..	15	26.6 "	73.4 "

The results of the second laboratory period, ending October 31st, 1900, are included in the following:

Of the 591 specimens sent to the Provincial Health Laboratory in 10 months ending October 31st, 1900, 218 gave positive results, and 373 gave negative. Of 389, with data supplied, 149 gave positive results, and 240 negative results. Of 149 positive results, 69 were males and 80 were females.