

will disappear. His weight will begin to increase. He will begin to feel fit and vigorous. Exercise will no longer exhaust him. He will eat with relish, and his stomach will digest his food without protest. He will lose his old despair and see hope ahead. In the end he will be well.

It may be argued by the unthinking that all this is not medicine—that the physician who puts a consumptive upon such a routine is merely confessing that medicine can do nothing for him. But this argument is fallacious, for the open-air treatment of tuberculosis was devised, not by laymen, but by physicians, and as it stands to-day it represents the results of long years of experiment and inquiry in laboratory and hospital.

But this open-air treatment is not the last word. It cures thousands, but it is always lengthy and tedious, and it is by no means mathematically certain. Already plans to aid or supplant it with something better are under way. This something better, it is probable, will take the form of a tuberculosis serum—a serum that will be the direct descendant of the tuberculin of Dr. Koch. Experiments with various modifications of tuberculin are now in progress in every civilized country in the world, and the results are beginning to show promise. In certain forms of tuberculosis it seems to be a true specific, and in tuberculosis of the lungs it is proving more and more effective every day. Ten years from now—who knows?—a case of consumption may be cured absolutely and permanently in—six months—maybe in three!

And this is the supreme achievement of modern medicine. It has cast aside guesswork forever. Its business to-day is to discover the cause of each and every malady, and, having found this cause, to devise a cure—not by haphazard groping in the dark, but by a cool, scientific application of known principles. The antitoxin for diphtheria opened the way for antitoxins for lockjaw and meningitis. The open-air treatment of tuberculosis opened the way for the rational treatment of pneumonia and typhoid. In a few years we will have specifics for all of these diseases. And when that time comes the world will not forget the men who are working in a thousand laboratories to-day—working for the good of the human race, quietly and unrewarded, while fools laugh.