

Selections.

The Prevention of Tuberculosis.—In the course of the debate which has been proceeding for some time past in the Academy of Medicine of Paris, and was concluded last week, there has been a republication of curious edicts and rules intended to prevent the spread of tubercular disease among members of communities. Thus M. Germain Sée drew attention to one of those edicts passed over a hundred years ago, namely, in the year 1782, when the King of Naples proclaimed as law : (1) That every physician in practice should be bound rigorously to furnish indications to the authorities as soon as he had discovered phthisis in any of his patients, and if he neglected this announcement should be amenable to a fine of one hundred ducats, and in case of repetition of the offence be condemned, without appeal, to banishment for ten years. (2) That the sick, after the discovery that they were suffering from phthisis pulmonalis, should be taken immediately to the hospital. (3) That the directors of hospitals should be obliged to keep separate the clothes and the linen belonging to the phthisical, with an inventory of all the clothes that had been worn by every individual certified as being tuberculous, and that after the death of such person the director or manager should prove that all parts of the clothes were still present, any infraction of this part of the decree being punishable by imprisonment or even the galleys. (4) That the authorities should be empowered to renew the sick-chambers in which phthisical persons had been lodged ; that is to say, the flooring of the chamber, the bed-clothes and the hangings of the bed, and should remove and burn the windows and the doors and replace them by new ones. (5) That severe penalties should also be inflicted on those who bought or sold effects belonging to the phthisical. (6) That every house in which a phthisical patient died should be put under ban, and its proprietor be reduced to the loss of it.

These proscriptions, M. Germain Sée said, were only a copy of still older regulations which had been brought into force against the plague in former times ; and the same rules were