

in regard to smallpox, which cannot be controlled unless the public submit to vaccination, which, if properly observed, has been so amply proved an efficient preventive of the disease. Of tuberculosis it is no less true that unless the public duly appreciate and put into practice the means that have been evolved and proved efficient by the profession in the prevention and cure of the disease, physicians will be able to accomplish little, notwithstanding the marvellous advance made in our knowledge of the disease. The public is slow to learn, and it is only by patient and constant repetition of the dangers and the means to be adopted to prevent them, that we can hope for success.

Tuberculosis stands by itself in many of its characteristics: its insidious beginning, its slow progress, its protracted duration, and its apparent want of contagiousness. All these characteristics render it difficult to prevent, no less than to cure.

Tuberculosis is not contagious in the sense that smallpox, scarlet fever, etc., are contagious. There are no emanations from the sufferer carrying the poison of the disease to those about him. All the germs of tuberculosis are practically contained in the sputum, and that is easily collected and destroyed. Like typhoid fever, it is easily managed so as to be without menace to the other occupants of the house. Typhoid fever never spreads to those about the patient if the excreta are scrupulously destroyed and due cleanliness observed. So it is with tuberculosis: if the excreta are carefully destroyed and due cleanliness of patient and surroundings observed, those living in the same house are quite safe; they will never contract the disease from such exposure. Cleanliness of the house, however, means purity of air, as well as of floor, walls, clothing, etc. The abundant furnishings too often seen in the homes of all classes are detrimental to the inmates, because they collect dust which is being constantly thrown into the air of the room. The less the hangings and furniture the more easily is the air of the room kept pure and free from germs of all kinds, especially those of tuberculosis. It is quite impossible to have the air pure and have the walls covered with draperies, etc. With thoroughly clean floors, walls, and furnishings, and an abundant supply of pure air, the presence of one or more tuberculous persons is no menace to anyone in the house; the disease never spreads from the sick to the well under such circumstances. If we get the general public to fully understand this truth, we will have done much toward checking the spread of tuberculosis in every home in which there is one or more affected persons. Such knowledge will also prevent the fear of contagion that is be-