

If I had dared encroach further on the Society's time, I would have given in detail the latest phase of the Koch treatment as carried out at the hospital in Moabit, a suburb of Berlin. I refer to a few cases where resection of the ribs has been done to permit of cleansing out lung cavities, cauterizing these cavities, and local application of lymph thereto. Prof. Sonnenburg, who has the surgical wards in the Moabit hospitals, gives an elaborate account of these operations in the last *Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift* and their results, which are certainly satisfactory up to the present time. For the technique of the operation and the details of the work, I would refer those interested to that journal. The surgical skill combined with the precision in medical diagnosis, demanded by such operations, precludes procedure of this kind outside of large hospital centres, but the Koch treatment outside of this phase of it can be creditably undertaken by the general practitioner who will assume the labor of clinical experience, and so acquire that knowledge which alone can qualify him.

Whether tuberculosis will become a radically curable disease remains for clinical experience to prove. Time must be the arbiter. But while awaiting its decision we must not lose sight of what has already been accomplished. Tuberculosis is not a local disease, else the lymph would seem to be almost a specific. Its silent emissary, the bacillus, may secrete itself in parts distant from its apparent attack. If the lymph were endowed with the power of searching out and attacking the bacillus, as it so surely does tuberculous tissue, the battle would be won. That this fluid is a potent agent, its effect as above recorded fully demonstrates; the vital forces must still be brought to bear upon the expulsion of the *debris*, whose presence is a constant menace, which demands the continued influence of the agent to protect living tissues from reinvasion.

While we thus have a most potent ally to the forces which modern medicine has not unsuccessfully marshalled against this dread disease in the past—viz., fresh air, exercise, diet and hydrotherapy—we must still depend upon these for establishing that resistance to the disease which they have so often afforded us in coping with phthisis.

Koch's method was born of reason, of logical deduction; it must be nurtured and developed, and applied likewise if it shall prove a permanent beneficence. If prolonged clinical test secures for the lymph the therapeutic position it bids fair to take, as *magnum donum dei*, medicine will have struck the first blow upon the chains forged upon it by the empiricism of which it is born, and its onward march to the goal of scientific precision may be deemed fairly inaugurated.