

individual cases have been adduced in which the husband of the tubercular wife has become tubercular, and *vice versa*; but statistics are still wanting of the extent to which this obtains, and those statistics are difficult to obtain. There is another class that can be held peculiarly liable, namely, sick nurses—not so much those attending individual cases as those attending upon the sick in hospital wards, where necessarily, owing to the large proportion that phthisical cases bear to all other cases, each nurse must be brought into intimate contact with a series of tubercular patients. The vital statistics of this class of the community can be more easily collected and studied. It was to this study that Cornet applied himself and this is what he found:—

In Germany the sick in hospital are largely attended by religious sisterhoods and confraternities. Taking thirty-eight of these nursing corporations he found that, during the last 25 years, of their total mortality 62.8 per cent., or almost two-thirds, was recorded as being from tuberculosis, while of those members of the corporations dying between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five no less than 73 per cent. had succumbed to this disease, in place of a little over 49 per cent. in the general population. Or, to put the matter in another light, a German nurse, member of one of these sisterhoods, *has at twenty-five the same expectation of life as a woman at fifty-eight in the general population*. This is a terrible revelation. Little wonder that now-a-days in Germany the lesson thus given as to the infectious nature of tuberculosis has been taken well to heart and that every precaution, even down to the disinfection of railway carriages, is being carried out by the government and by civic bodies.

If, as Ransome has proved, the breath of a phthisical patient contains the bacilli, *a fortiori* are the bacilli present in large quantities in the sputum, and it is this sputum that must be rigorously disinfected. Not only must this be collected in special utensils and then disinfected and the utensils rendered sterile by boiling daily (or, as some advise, be made of such materials that they can only be employed one day and then be