

contains. It would almost seem as if the patient was getting rid of his old supply of the latter and that they were too weakened to offer any resistance to their expulsion. After a few days their number begins to decrease gradually, and the sputum loses its yellowish or greenish colour to become whitish or white.

The action of the serum is less noticeable on the local lesions which persist for a longer or shorter time in spite of the injections, and when the disease is too far advanced they may fail to heal which is not hard to account for. The serum can act only on the bacilli or their toxins, but not on any physical lesions that may be present. Once the bacilli is eliminated, these lesions assume the nature of simple sores which heal and cicatrise in proportion to the strength of the patient. When his general condition is good, as, for example, when the disease is recent and the lesions are not extensive, they will heal readily and quickly. But if the disease has lasted some years with extensive lesions and cavities, if the constitution is weakened also by long supuration, persistent diarrhoea, etc., it stands to reason that even without the presence of bacilli, the organ must be in a bad condition. Secondary infection, grafted on the primary disease, may also supervene to complicate and aggravate it.

When these lesions and cavities are formed, the tuberculous bacilli in them do not long remain in sole possession, other bacilli find in them a suitable soil to grow and develop, and these new comers often add a very dangerous complication to the disease. Against these latter visitors, the serum is powerless, and this is one of the reasons why an early treatment is so essential.

It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that patients in the last stages of phthisis, exhausted and without strength to resist fresh invasions and without power to repair past damage, succumb in spite of the serum. We must not expect miracles from it. Science never performs any; we must be satisfied with its undoubtedly anti-tuberculous action which is in itself almost miraculous.

DOES MARMORECK'S TREATMENT CURE CONSUMPTION?

We are convinced to-day that this method does cure tuberculosis, and this conviction is based on careful observations of the patients treated by it. The number so treated is not as yet very great and may be divided into two classes:

In the first must be placed those who were treated during the first months in which the serum was being experimented with. They were purposely chosen during the period of cohexia, and the serum was administered to them, not so much in the hope of effecting a cure as to demonstrate its absolute harmlessness. All of them without exception were bettered by it.

If we take into account the fact that, during that time, very small doses of a serum much less powerful than the