

inhaled by susceptible individuals and then cause the disease to be developed. The communication of the germ of the disease is, however, less obscure to us in its process and far more easily guarded against, than the contagion arising from such maladies as diphtheria, scarlet fever, or smallpox. What has just been said concerning the absolute security from infection in a well kept sanatorium can not very well be said of a smallpox hospital, no matter how well directed the hygienic precautions. Against the danger from contracting smallpox we have thus far no other means than preventive vaccination, and in case of an outbreak of the disease the most rigid isolation. It is entirely different with tuberculosis. The simple contact of a smallpox patient may suffice to convey the disease. This is never possible with a consumptive, with whom, even should he be careless or unclean, a prolonged contact is necessary to transmit the disease. Herein lies the difference between communicable and contagious.

It seems to me essential that those of us who labor not only with tuberculosis patients, but also with their friends and relatives, and a large portion of the community, whose sympathy we desire to enlist in our cause, should know the true status of a consumptive. Whether we work under the name of society for the prevention of tuberculosis, or sanatorium association, or an anti-tuberculosis movement of any kind, we must never, never be considered as an anti-consumptives society. The consumptive must know that every member of an anti-tuberculosis society is his friend, that we labor for him and not against him, that we try to lessen his burdens, and that we are the last to make him feel as if he were an outcast from society. To do the work in this spirit will be the first and most essential duty in the mission which a society for the prevention of tuberculosis should fulfill.

Infused then with this spirit of deepest sympathy for our fellow creature who may be afflicted with consumption, what can we do for him to protect him from reinfection? What can we do for him that he may not transmit the disease? What can we do for the community at large to protect it against the invasion of the tubercle bacillus and the subsequent inroads of the "great white plague?" What can we do to better the condition of the consumptive poor and those of moderate means?

The first question, what can such societies as yours do to protect the consumptive from reinfecting himself or infecting others, must be answered by the single word "education." The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, of which I have had the honor to be Vice-president for a number of years, has issued a series of very interesting and instructive pamphlets with this end in view. Permit me to give here the titles of a few of them: "How persons suffering