

TUBERCULOSIS PROPHYLAXIS.

THE prophylaxis of Tuberculosis is a question which at the present time is engaging the attention not only of leading Medical men, but of the humanitarians and scientists the world over. When we consider that 1-7 of all deaths are due to Tuberculosis some idea of the importance of the subject may be formed. Nearly every Medical Journal at which we look, contains either the reports of societies formed for the stamping out of the disease, or the opinions of learned Medical men on the subject. Every gathering of Medical men contributes its quota of literature on the prevention of Tuberculosis, and Boards of Health, wherever formed, are bending their energies in the same direction. The knowledge thus obtained must be carried further, for the work will not be complete until the laity are fully seized with the importance of how valuable their assistance must be in stamping out this terrible scourge.

We all know that Tuberculosis is not inherent in the constitution, but is derived from pre-existing causes. It is contagious, communicable from man to man and from animal to man. If it is contagious, there must be some means of preventing it and if preventable, why not try and prevent it? As long as the prevention of this wide-spread disease is left to a few only, no progress, worthy of the name, can be assured. But when the movement becomes general, when the laity understand that in self-defence they must lend their assistance and work hand in hand with the medical profession, then only can we expect any appreciable degree of success.

What then can we do to prevent the spread of the disease?

(1). We must educate the public in the way of preventing the spread of the disease and avoiding the sources of its contagion.

(2). We must strive to extinguish the disease in cattle.

(3). We must advocate the isolation of Tuberculous patients, either in Hospitals, sanatoria or by some other means.

Thanks to measures already taken, the mortality has already been reduced between the periods '51-'60 and '91-'95 by thirty