

the fact that his parents failed to die of tuberculosis. . . . Again, as regards insanity, the authors themselves estimate that, roughly, one in every eight consumptives is likewise insane. This tendency to consumption among the insane they explain by the lowered resistance of the soil during the attack of insanity. This may be so, but it is certainly not the whole story. While, during the last fifty or sixty years, the death-rate from tuberculosis has steadily diminished, we are, on the other hand, faced with a very ugly rise in our insane rate. Since the insane show such a marked tendency to tuberculosis, it is not improbable that the diminishing death-rate from tuberculosis has played a considerable part in the increase of insanity;

And again:

Let us take the case of the idiot. The death-rate among idiots is about ten times that of the normal population at the same age. Further, of deaths of idiots, about 80 per cent. are due to tuberculosis. Now an idiot has not even the resisting power necessary to die of phthisis. He dies of acute tuberculosis, death taking place in from three to six weeks from the onset of the illness. Surely here there is some inherited lowering of the soil. There are some 150,000 (estimated) of these defectives in England and Wales, and for every defective there are from six to a dozen of his relatives only a shade better than himself. Practically the same holds for insanity, yet we are asked to believe that a man cannot inherit a soil which will remain during his lifetime permanently below the average in resisting power.

Further:

Until we have some restriction in the marriage of undesirables the elimination of the tubercle bacillus is not worth aiming at. It forms a rough but on the whole a very serviceable check on the survival and propagation of the unfit. This world is not a hothouse, and a race which owed its survival to the fact that the tubercle bacillus had ceased to exist would, on the whole, be a race hardly worth surviving. Personally, I am of opinion, and I think such opinion will be shared by most medical men who have been behind the scenes and have not allowed their sentiments to blind them, that if to-morrow the tubercle

bacillus were non-existent, it would be nothing short of a national calamity. We are not yet ready for its disappearance.

These are wise and weighty words, but it would be too much to expect that they would command public acceptance, because there is nothing in the present day which people hate so much as the truth when it conflicts with popular sentiment.

Dr. Osler, in a recent lecture in Dublin on the fight against tuberculosis, said: "And, lastly, for our great consolation, we know that the disease is not hereditary, and for this let us be thankful." We know nothing of the kind, although we are constantly having it dinned into our ears by medical men who ought to know better. We know that the tubercle bacillus, which is a necessary element in the production of tuberculosis, is not transmitted in the germ plasma, but the long, narrow, flat chest, delicate lungs and feeble resisting power to the tubercle bacillus and to many other germs are undoubtedly inherited, just as much so as the shape of your nose or the colour of your hair. Medical men who are shutting their eyes to the truth and encouraging matrimony and the propagation of the species by mental and physical weaklings are incurring a fearful racial responsibility, and their action should be condemned in no uncertain language.

I am in favour of the abolition of tuberculosis, because I advocate artificial to assist natural selection. Moreover, tuberculosis is a poor method of a selective death-rate compared with typhus fever, which we have practically abolished. The latter disease cleared off the weaklings without doing any permanent injury to the survivors, but tuberculosis seriously damages the survivors, is a very slow and expensive disease to combat, and many an individual succumbs who would be a worthy citizen in a better environment. By all means improve the environment, improve your sanitary conditions, which will be beneficial in preventing tuberculosis and many other diseases. As far as possible destroy the tubercle bacillus, both human and bovine, and see that the milk supply is free from such organisms. Above all, both for the prevention of insanity and consumption, discourage and prevent the propagation of the species by the mental and physical