

accommodation for patients too ill to work ; (4) general sanitary measures, including ventilation, drainage and reconstruction of unhealthy areas.

As regards the duty of the State Dr. Burdon Sanderson said :—What is immediately required is, first, that tuberculosis should be added to the list of diseases regarded by the law as contagious ; and secondly, that an efficient system of skilled inspection should be created . . . . I hold that in asking for the 'interference of the State, we must not base our demand on the ground that the community *actually suffers from the consumption of tuberculous meat*, but, I maintain that *the consumption of tuberculous meat is attended with danger* and that on that ground its consumption ought to be watched over by the State and avoided by the individual.

---

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

THE DOCTOR IN MODERN SOCIETY. —This is the heading of an editorial in the New York Medical Record : The physician of to-day exercises more or less influence upon all the affairs of life. In a sense he is the supreme educator : for juries refuse to convict ; philosophers pause before considering abnormities of will, memory, or personality ; the historian waits in his description of prophet and sibyl until the medical man has spoken. It is impossible to build a house properly, bring up children aright, discipline an army, and live with structure healthily developed and function of every kind unimpeded—which is the nearest approach to happiness for anyone—without first consulting the hygienist. The doctor is everywhere—in society, in politics, the fine arts, religion and philosophy. In a recent paper Maurice de Fleury thinks the medical man has just cause to be proud of his present position. Alphonse Daudet calls him the last priest and supreme belief. Painters and sculptors owe much to medical science . . . . The debt of novelists is even greater. . . . The representatives of literature owe as much to Claude Bernard as to Balzac. This century is one of science, and among *savants* medicine occupies the first rank, because it is of wider scope and more human than any other branch . . . . Be the realization as it may, it is a significant fact that the practical needs of humanity are best known to the physician, who, in spite of himself, thus becomes a functionary of high order, invested in great degree with the welfare and happiness of the human race.

ARSENIC POISONING AND WALL PAPERS : THE "OTHER SIDE" OF THE QUESTION, FROM THE N. Y. MEDICAL RECORD. —In his anniversary discourse before the New York Academy of Medicine, Prof. Chandler performed a decided service by presenting the subject of arsenical poisoning from the sceptic's standpoint. There is no doubt that the majority of medical men, even outside of Boston, believe that chronic arsenical poisoning occurs from wall-papers, clothes, furniture and various articles in the domestic environment. The dangers from these sources are generally admitted and described in systematic works, sanitary authorities have waxed eloquent over them, and legal restrictions have been established to prevent or lessen the possible harm. Prof. Chandler thoroughly disbelieves in the reality of these dangers. True, his line of argument is rather negative than positive. Chemical and physical facts make it *a priori* improbable that wall-paper or fabrics can be a source of poisoning. For arsenic is not volatile, and when fixed in paper or cloth can only be given off as a fine dust . . . . Supposing that wall paper or clothes gives off such dust, the amount is infinitesimal, and there is no clinical evidence to show that infinitesimal