

mingling of the infected with the uninfected—that health authorities are now recognizing the fact that tuberculosis is an infectious disease, and therefore preventible. Spitting around in our public buildings and in our public carriages of conveyance is now in many places being prohibited. The city of New York through its Public Health Department has taken the most enlightened action in this matter of any city of which we have any knowledge. Every case of tuberculosis occurring within the city limits must be reported to the Department just as diphtheria or small-pox would be. More than that, many hospitals there are now refusing to admit tuberculous patients to their general wards, believing, and this belief is founded upon well-known scientific facts, that tuberculosis is an infectious disease, and therefore that all who are in poor health are liable to contract it if brought within range of a patient suffering therefrom. The Health Department there are now agitating for a hospital in which tuberculous patients may be completely isolated, as it is believed that such patients can be thus better cared for and the dangers to others thus minimized. Dr. H. M. Biggs, Pathologist and Director of the Bacteriological Laboratories, New York City Health Department, in his address before the British Medical Association last September, said :—

“ The best medical opinion forbids that persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis be treated in association with other classes of cases in the general medical wards of general hospitals. This opinion is based on the daily observation of the dangers incident thereto, and it has very properly resulted in the exclusion to a great extent of persons suffering from this disease from many of the general hospitals to which they were formerly admitted.

A large experience has also shown that in institutions devoted solely to the care of consumptives the general welfare of the patients is more easily fostered, the risks of fresh infection more certainly diminished, and the chances for recovery more surely enhanced than in general hospitals, in which all classes of cases are received.”

In large centres of population like New York separate institutions for the care and treatment of consumptives are a possibility. In smaller centres it is, perhaps, too much to expect a separate institution, but surely it is not too much to ask that in our general hospitals provision be made for the isolation of such