

In examining the results of treatment at the different sanatoria, one is struck by the difference in the terms used. For instance, Dettweiler and his pupils use the term "absolutely cured," "relatively cured," "disease arrested," and "improved." In fact, the different phthisio-therapeutists nearly all employ different terms. Almost all agree that absolute cures do occur. Observations of spontaneous cures have been gathered and published by clinicians of all countries, and I am sure there is hardly a practicing physician who has not seen a spontaneous cure. The largest number of cures has been observed in sanatoria. In his communication to the Congress of Buda-Pesth in 1894, Dettweiler made the statement that "the treatment in sanatoria is to that of people treated in a loose manner, as for instance in boarding houses, as the treatment of our hospitals is to that of our out-door consultations." Enumerations of results would have scientific value if the observations which have verified the cure were made under identical conditions. The various observers have not interpreted in the same way the objective signs furnished by observation, auscultation, and bacteriology. Knopf says that the discussions he had with the most distinguished phthisio-therapeutists showed him that the conception of cure was interpreted differently by almost all. Darenberg, quoted in the treatise on medicine by Marfan, who adopts his ideas, says, "one can pronounce cured an old phthisical, who, during ten years, has resumed his occupations without having an hæmoptysis, an excess of fever due to an actual tuberculosis, or an expectoration containing tubercle bacilli. If, during ten years, he has been resistant to those bacilli lost in a corner of his lung and probably dead (for we have seen that dead bacilli are also irritative), there is no cause why he should again become phthisical, if he does not again place himself under the conditions in which he suffered his first attack. One must not forget that the tubercle bacillus is incapable of infecting all the tissues; that man is a being relatively refractory to tuberculous infection; that it is important to consider the virulence as the expression of the diverse modifications of the life of the microbe, which is being constantly influenced by the essentially changeable physico-chemical qualities of organic media. The physician recognizes that the tubercle bacillus thrives only on soils which are favourable to it; that one microbe is not sufficient to cause tuberculosis, and that as regards various diseases some at least of those affected by those diseases appear to accumulate morbid material in their tissues as a consequence either of hereditary or of acquired disposition." Dettweiler distinguishes the "absolute cure," and the "relative cure." He defines "absolute cure" as the re-establishment of normal functions in all the organs and the complete disappearance of bacilli from the sputum. A "relative cure" exists if the patient recovers his well-being, if the organs