

words *vigorous health* is the best protective against contagious diseases.

This is one of the most practical points so far brought out. The history of the experiment and careful research involved in this discovery forms one of the most interesting chapters in bacterial study. There are certain cellular elements of the blood which have been proved to stand guard, as it were, armed with the power to destroy disease-germs when they pass into the body. This antiseptic power of the blood, to render innocuous the absorbed or inhaled bacteria and bacilli as a disinfectant does outside the body, teaches us the important lesson of the value of a well preserved and vigorous system, with rich healthy blood, uninjured by violation of nature's law. We have as it were always with us, a part of our life, a resisting power against disease germs, ever active and ready to repel their attacks.

TUBERCULAR CONSUMPTION.

The next subject discussed in this section was one of paramount importance to the physician and the public—*Tuberculosis*, or as it is known by its common name, *Consumption*. This dread disease which is so destructive of human life; the ravages of which are felt equally by rich and poor; which comes in its many forms, to the child, the adult, and the old, still defies our skill; for with the most watchful care and all that medical science can do, it almost invariably tends to a fatal result in the vast majority of cases. This disease which represents the enormous proportion of fourteen per cent. of the whole death rate must always be a fruitful field for investigation to the scientific work. Until its causes are better understood and we are enabled to adopt some plan for its prevention, and develop a more effective method of cure. The first great step in this direction was taken about nine years ago, when the discovery of the tubercle bacillus or the germ of consumption was made. This discovery places tuberculosis among the germ diseases, or in the same category as diphtheria, typhoid fever, or small-pox, a contagious disease transmissible from place to place and from person to person.

This important discovery of the tubercle bacillus places us in this advantageous position—we now know what consumption is; before it we did not know what it was.

From this point our knowledge has progressed and is forging ahead day by day, so that but a few years may elapse before we shall be able to place consumption in its various forms of lung disease, hip disease, and scrofula, among the preventable and curable diseases.

It is important to note that, since last year, the United States Government has classed consumption as a dangerous and contagious disease, and immigrants suffering from it are now ordered to be returned to the country from which they came.

Papers were read on this subject by the great English Scientist, Professor Burdon Sanderson, of Oxford University; Prof. Bang, of Copenhagen; Prof. Arloing, of Lyons; Dr. MacFadyean, Metshinkoff and Roux, and Prof. Ehrlich, of Berlin.

The following is an abstract of the principal papers:—

"Professor Burdon Sanderson, in the course of his remarks, said: He would speak principally on the etiology of tuberculosis, which