

The sputum of other discharges, whether on soiled handkerchiefs, linen, garments, or elsewhere, when dried, may become pulverized, and in this condition may be readily dispersed in the air of a room. That droplets of sputum are less important agents of infection is suggested by the fact that the incidence of consumption upon the staff, nurses, and others engaged in hospitals for the treatment of tuberculous disease, where all discharges are carefully disposed of, is not above the average in the general population.

(c) *By swallowing.* Dust infected by the tubercle bacillus may be conveyed to food and so enter the alimentary canal; or infection may occur more directly in the act of kissing, or by consumptive and healthy persons using the same food utensils. As about 10 per cent. of the milk supplied to large cities contains tubercle bacilli derived from infected cows, this avenue of infection is particularly important in the case of children. The bovine tubercle bacillus is more commonly responsible for tuberculosis in young children than in adults, but the proportion of cases due to it varies very much in different localities.

(d) There is no evidence that tuberculosis can be conveyed to others either by the breath alone, or by emanations from patients, or by their garments, unless soiled by dried sputum or discharges.

(5). The spread of tuberculosis is favored by uncleanliness, overcrowding, and imperfect ventilation, and is hindered by the opposite conditions. Experience in hospitals and other institutions where the following precautionary measures have been thoroughly carried out indicates that by such measures the risk of infection is reduced to a minimum, namely:

(a) The careful disposal and disinfection of the sputum and other discharges.

(b) The disinfection or destruction of soiled handkerchiefs, clothes, and linen.

(c) The removal of dust by frequent moist cleansing of the floors, walls, etc., of the rooms.

(d) The supply of abundant air space and free ventilation with fresh air.

No risk is incurred by living in the immediate neighborhood of institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis which are properly conducted.—*British Medical Journal*.

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#### THE RELIEF OF PRURITUS ANI.

Physicians who have had their patience exhausted by repeated failure to relieve the maddening symptom of pruritus ani may be glad