

country on the globe. The death-rate is only 10.95 per thousand per annum.

"The death-rate from tuberculosis," he writes, "has been steadily declining during the past twenty-five years, and now is less than 9 per cent. of the total deaths, which is a lower percentage than any published by any other country which complies its statistics in an equally reliable manner."

The writer goes on to say that the measures which the Australian health authorities believe to be responsible for this satisfactory state of affairs are of interest.

"These are all the more noteworthy," he says, "when it is remembered that in 1885 over 16 per cent. of the total deaths were due to tuberculosis in New South Wales.

"In 1881 a Board of Health was organized in New South Wales, to which considerable powers were given to combat disease. From the time the board brought the provisions of this law into force there has been a rapid decline in the tuberculosis death-rate.

"In 1886 a Dairies Supervision Act was passed. It required that all dairymen and milk vendors must be registered, the dairies kept in a sanitary condition, and that any person working in a dairy must be reported to the Board of Health immediately if he is suffering from an infectious disease.

"The enforcement of this Act was followed by a marked reduction in the infant mortality. The rate for the latter for the years 1883 to 1886 was 81.6 per cent. This steadily declined, and for the years 1905 to 1908 it reached 25.9 per cent.

"In 1892 the Diseased Animals Act was passed, which prohibited the sale of diseased animals and authorized the condemning and destruction of meat which was unsound.

In New South Wales the notification of cases of pulmonary and throat tuberculosis has been compulsory for over ten years. The walls and ceilings of houses in which cases occur are sprayed with a solution of formalin and the floors are washed with a solution of corrosive sublimate.

"The effectiveness of the educational

campaign is well shown by the fact that open-air sleeping is more general than in any other country. There is scarcely a dwelling-house constructed nowadays in Australia, even a laborer's cottage, which is not provided with a suitable verandah for outdoor sleeping.

"There is very little expectorating on the sidewalks or other public places. Ordinances to prevent the contamination of milk and other foodstuffs are well observed. In shops where fresh meat is offered for sale it is customary to find sheets of water running over the front windows and walls for the purpose of catching dust.

"All large cities like Sydney (population 700,000), Melbourne (population 600,000), Adelaide, and others, have tuberculosis sanatoria, with a large number of beds for chronic cases.

"The Greenvale Sanatorium near Melbourne will compare favorably with similar institutions in Europe or America. The health officials believe that only a few years will elapse before every case of pulmonary and throat tuberculosis will be under such control as to reduce the danger of transmitting the infection to a minimum."

The following recommendations made at a conference of the principal medical officers of the Commonwealth last Spring, indicate the advanced state of the tuberculosis campaign in Australia:

"Legal power to regulate the home management of consumptives; legal power to remove dangerous or infective consumptives into segregation; legal power to detain such consumptives in segregation; legal power to examine medically contacts and housemates of consumptives; financial assistance to the wives and families of necessitous consumptives admitted to hospitals or sanatoria."

The conference stated that forcible segregation was necessary for "the small number of persons who persistently decline to take the precautions enjoined upon them for the safety of others," and "to the somewhat larger number of persons whose circumstances, either of poverty or of advanced illness combined with small means, render observance of the necessary precautions by them physically impossible. This form of control should