

and the tendency on the other hand of those tissues to resist such disturbance, and to return to their normal type.

In the case of the acute fever, the lines of treatment have been long since laid down and accepted by all intelligent people. The patient must surrender himself absolutely into the hands of his medical adviser, and trust implicitly to him to guide the disturbed natural processes in the best possible way, so that they may resist the attack of the foreign organism and overcome the consequences to which it gives rise.

In such fevers the very acuteness of the disease is a safeguard against any ignorant attempts at self-treatment on the part of the patient. He feels his helplessness, and seeks aid. The sufferer from tuberculosis, unless, indeed, the disease begins in its most virulent form, rarely experiences this feeling of helplessness, and hence, in the great majority of cases, he does not seek aid until the poison is so far developed within him as to give rise to definite symptoms ; and, even when these have declared themselves, he will rarely submit himself entirely to medical control. He feels that his brain is still clear, and he will take advice only in so far as it does not interfere too much with his sense of freedom.

Herein lies the explanation of much of the failure of rational medical treatment in the past. From the earliest times to the present the main principles which should guide the treatment of consumption have been clearly recognised and put forward, in countless forms, and in all the languages of the civilized world ; but, until the present era, no serious effort has ever been made to put them in practice under the only conditions in which they can be expected to succeed, viz., under strict medical supervision. That the accepted methods are actually effective when properly applied is shown beyond the possibility of doubt by the results obtained in chest hospitals, where patients with incipient disease and fever are kept at rest till the fever has subsided, and are then required to lead a hygienic life for a few weeks. By these simple means their natural processes are restored to healthy action, and for the time they are cured ; but when they have arrived at this stage, they are sent out into the world again, to live their own lives, and sooner or later the disease once more gets the upper hand.

Amongst the well-to-do classes the success of treatment is less in proportion to the numbers treated, for the want of that very supervision which the poorer patient gets in the hospital wards. The rich man obtains the best advice, and may even provide himself with a constant medical attendant, but still he submits as a rule only to such restrictive treatment as he himself believes in. From the earliest times to the present the virtues of climatic treatment have been held in high esteem, but the exalted estimate thus formed has been one of the potent factors in preventing success. A climate alone cannot cure consumption, nor can it even produce lasting benefit, unless it be used with intelligence, guided by expert advice. A writer of a century ago, while advocating a change of climate to his consumptive patients, added a proviso, that the patients should not expect the change to produce its full effect in less than two years, and he further advised that " a medical atten-