

3. Through the avenue of the alimentary canal by the ingestion of food containing the bacilli.

4. Through the respiratory passages by the inhalation of air laden with the bacilli.

Let us very briefly look at these various modes of invasion with special reference to the problem now before us, viz.:—Are our schools in any way responsible for the spread of tuberculosis? 1. Whether the germs of this disease do or can pass directly from parent to child, or in other words, is this disease ever inherited directly, is now a moot question. Authorities may be quoted both in favour and against the direct inheritance. But whether directly inherited or not, is foreign to the subject now under consideration. If any case is so directly inherited the disease will almost certainly manifest itself before the school age, and in all probability terminate the patient's existence before that time. Or even if such a patient should survive the disease long enough to permit of his going to school, the disease in his case cannot be laid to the charge of the school. At the same time such a pupil may, nay will, be a menace to all the other children attending the same school. This phase of the subject we shall consider later.

2. Can this disease be acquired by inoculation? Yes, undoubtedly. The bacilli may pass through an abrasion of the skin or mucous membrane, find a lodgment there, set up a local lesion and from this focus absorption may take place and thus a general tuberculosis may be established. I think that no one will contend that this is a very common mode of invasion. At the same time no one can deny the possibility of this disease being conveyed from one victim to another in this way. As an illustration of how this may occur, let us suppose that a child who is suffering from chronic pulmonary tuberculosis is very affectionate with another child who is free from this disease, and that in giving expression to their affection they frequently kiss each other. The unaffected child has an abrasion on its lips. Some of the virus gains admission through this abrasion. Absorption takes place. The neighbouring glands become affected and later on we have a case of general tuberculosis.

3. That the tubercle bacilli may gain admission to the human body by the avenue of the alimentary tract, food acting