

ordinary walks of life. It is well established that hereditary influences, once regarded as so potent and far reaching, are but a predisposing condition of weakened vitality ; and, further, that the chief reason for the continual occurrence of phthisis pulmonalis among the members of the human race is to be traced to an infection from a preëxisting case.

The quiet spread of this wonderful news is having its good effects in a miniature way, and the daily warnings and precautions of enlightened men to their patients and the patient's friends are slowly but surely extending this gospel over the whole universe. I have been struck often with the information possessed on the subject by even the ignorant and poorer classes, who with but a superficial smattering of knowledge, eagerly seize upon the good news and endeavour to carry out, even in a perfunctory way, the instructions laid down for their guidance. It took a very long time, gentlemen, to inoculate the marvellous news of vaccination, often into an unwilling public, but if ever anything was proved, it has surely been put beyond cavil that a community properly protected by vaccination is practically fearless about smallpox. It has taken a longer time still to influence the ravages of syphilis, but the patient efforts of our profession throughout all civilized countries is having its just reward, and the poison has become gradually attenuated as each decade has come and gone until now-a-days, except under unusual circumstances, we rarely see the revolting, disgusting and manifest lesions once so common and easy of daily demonstration.

Just so it will be, in my belief, with the white plague now a menace to the human race. The efforts of science, the revelations of the microscope and the patient work of the bacteriologist and the clinician, have given us sufficient information whereon we can base a practical standard of conduct, and even now we can observe the result of our earnest and painstaking efforts to prevent the spread of this dire malady from patient to patient. It is not for me on this occasion to weary you with details that are instilled into us all more surely and with greater vigor than our catechisms ever were, but I would take this opportunity to say that none of us are too humble or unknown to take, each one for himself, a fair share of this grand work.

The time has come when those of us who are connected with public institutions must steadfastly set our faces against receiving consumptives into our wards. Such a change of demeanour towards the sick and suffering cannot be carried out too suddenly, lest we unnecessarily shock the refined but untutored sensibilities of a philanthropic public ; but the more we fight against this practice and the more we spread the knowledge, the sooner will philanthropists come to recognize the crying