

and a bad side to these. It is a laudable ambition when a workman buys a cheap lot, erects a temporary home, and gives his family the benefit of air, grass, and trees, while gradually improving the building and premises. It is bad when hovels are erected, clustered close with other hovels in insanitary conditions. We need strong provincial supervision to meet such conditions, and also sympathetic direction into right channels.

At any rate, rehousing in Canada, in any form it may take, will be a blessed undertaking, and the mother of vast and

permanent improvements throughout our country. With it is closely wrapped up the welfare of the workingman, of the women of the people, and above all of the helpless world of children. Madame d'Youville was moved to found the Grey Nunnery Foundling Hospital by the sight of an infant found in the ice in spring with a dirk in its breast. I think the device of our housing reformers should be an infant with a dirk in its breast.

All honor to the courageous ladies and gentlemen who have established the movement, and those who are organizing the new companies.

THE INFLUENCE OF DOSAGE ON THE REACTION TO THE TUBERCLE BACILLUS

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A general survey of the bibliography of this disease during the last 30 years is remarkable for the somewhat dramatic developments that have occurred. Thus, there is a period where the condition was regarded as hereditary, which, subsequent to Koch's discovery, underwent a sudden change. The proof of the identity of many lesions of a diverse nature was permanently demonstrated through this epoch-making piece of work.

It is hardly surprising that the bacteriology of the day should claim tuberculosis as obeying the laws of an ordinary zymotic disease. As a consequence, the infecting agent has received all the attention of investigators, and the nature of the soil in which the organism grew sunk into insignificance.

Now the pendulum is swinging back to the former position. Still there is a difference, for, as Lister has shown that susceptibility is no excuse for sepsis, so the ideal holds good that a hereditary disposition for phthisis does not make death from pulmonary consumption inevitable, though at present absolute prevention is hardly practical.

Our idea of the distribution of this organism has also undergone a considerable change. We now know that it is to all intents ubiquitous. Thus, Henry

Aucell, quoted by Karl Pearson,* found, even as early as 1853, 25 per cent. of all autopsies of St. George's Hospital to contain evidence of the disease, even though the cause of death had no relation to it. From that time to the present this statement has been confirmed times out of number. More delicate tests, especially that of Pirquet, leads us to the conclusion that this disease is as prevalent as measles. Hamburger and Alonte obtained a positive reaction in 90 per cent. of children of 12 years and over.

Thus, the contention that if a large number of persons are exposed to infection, and only a few acquire it, the susceptibility of the individual is of more moment in the causation than exposure to infection hardly applies to tubercle, as all are exposed and all are infected. The probability of death, which is an accident from the point of view of the tubercle bacillus, being consequent on infection, may be dependent on transmitted peculiarities of constitution.

The points that suggest themselves are numerous, a few of which may be enumerated thus: Does the person who has been infected tend to acquire an immunity or does the organism subside in activity after a period of growth? Should life of the host continue? If such an

*A good epitome of the literature on this aspect of the subject will be found in "The Fight Against Tuberculosis and the Death Rate from Phthisis." Karl Pearson. Dulaw & Co. 1911. Pages 19 to 28.