

Mr. James L. Hughes calls self-consciousness, when he advised his graduating class to always write ten prescriptions for each case, tear up at least nine of these, and be very sure the tenth contains nothing to injure the patient. Surely we should do better, for tuberculosis, probably of all diseases, offers the richest and most varied morbid aggregation—hereditary taint, obnoxious climate-environments, occupation, habits and dietary; the cough expectoration, fever, wasting of fat and tissues, anæmia, emaciation, flushed face, night sweats, chills, diarrhœa, exhaustion, dyspnœa, clubbed fingers, changes in shape of chest, depressions above and below clavicle, “winged” scapula, irregular rhythm in chest movement; slow or rapid, jerky or prolonged respiration; increased or diminished fremitus; flatness, dulness, impaired resonance, metallic tinkling, tympany; bronchophony, pectoriloquy, ægophony, hæmorrhage, and patient’s mental attitude peculiarly and characteristically hopeful—when he gets a little better appetite and some more strength, he is to be quite well again. The macroscopic examination of sputum revealing mucous, pus, blood, shreds of tissue, and microscope detecting blood and pus corpuscles, epithelium, elastic fibres and the tubercle bacilli, whose presence seem to account for nearly all the other morbid conditions. Nature has painted this disease vividly enough, the mystery is why we are so slow in interpreting the signs. There may be some justification for our short comings in the past, but certainly we will deserve severe censure if in the future we do not make far better use of our resources.

In regard to prevention and treatment, the limitations of this article will only allow the mere mention of a few suggestions and principles, besides the text-books are replete with information on these subjects.

The physician should possess a large amount of the astuteness and zeal of the successful financier, who searches out everything that militates against his success and throttles it, but opens up every avenue that can help fill his coffers—so prophylactic measures in tuberculosis mean the keenest scrutiny into every factor that can injure health—heredity, climate, occupation, diet, habits, etc., and, if possible, eradicate every pernicious influence. The treatment fundamentally consists in seeking out, and opening up, every avenue conducive to the restoration of health. In discharging this duty faithfully and efficiently there is no more potent factor than that the physician should do his own thinking, and lots of it. Let him get rid of, as quickly as possible, the flotsam that routine practice has allowed to accumulate in his mental magazines. In the management