

life, and just in proportion as plants or animals are deprived of the sun's rays they become deficient in vitality. Consider, for instance, the low grade of human development in the Arctic regions. A majority of the natives are so busily engaged in converting food into the heat essential to simple existence that all higher physiological and sociological evolution is dwarfed by the struggle. The stimulating effects of cold, combined with the all-vital sunlight, is undoubtedly of benefit to those sufficiently vigorous to respond to the stimulation. On the other hand, the balmy air of a more temperate zone, also purified by these life-giving rays, is not infrequently best constituted to restore the lost strength of sufferers from consumption. Hence we find that some improve in a cold, others in a warm climate, and there is no tangible reason because one person prospers in a place that another will have the same experience. Even the dampness of a sea-voyage, provided the ship is well ventilated, does not outweigh the benefits of unlimited pure air. Still, I would enter my protest against the indiscriminate sending of patients from home and its comforts. The annoyances of travel, and the depressing effects of an enforced absence from one's fireside, often-times hasten rather than retard the onward progress of a malady already, perchance, too far advanced toward a fatal termination. Furthermore, banishing a patient to some place barren of everything but climate not infrequently defeats the purpose of the change, so slight is the opportunity for suitable diversion. And now and then consumptives are demoralized beyond measure at sanatoria by daily contact with those suffering with the same complaint.

In conclusion, let me briefly reiterate what I have been endeavoring to prove, phthisis pulmonalis is an infectious disease, only the soil must be fertile or the bacteria will not take root and grow; that the inheritance of the affection is simply the descent of the degraded cells-presenting a

vulnerable point for a possible encounter with the vagrant germs. That all specific treatment is futile, in view of our present knowledge; and though persistent destruction of the infectious matter is our best means of prophylaxis, yet to restore the vitality of the lung-tissue is as important as to destroy the tubercular bacilli. And, moreover, not a few cases of phthisis have a self-limitation, which is a comforting thought for whoever is afflicted, while, at the same time, it is a disquieting reflection for the numerous noisy advocates of the very latest unailing remedy.—*Gaillard's Medical Journal*.

#### THE TIME FOR SURGICAL INTERFERENCE IN ACUTE INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION.

In the paper on intestinal obstruction Dr. Keene insists on the necessity for earlier surgical interference than has usually been practiced, especially in country districts. Dr. Richardson (*British Medical Journal*) summarizes his views on this subject as follows:

1. In all cases the use of milder measures, such as purgatives, enemata and massage, may be safely carried out until the supervention of faecal vomiting.
2. As soon as this is established an exploratory incision into the abdomen should be made without delay.
3. Obscurity of diagnosis in presence of this symptom ought not to stand in the way of an operation.
4. Clinical experience has taught that there is very little chance of recovery when once stercoraceous vomiting has begun, unless an operation be performed.
5. Symptoms of collapse are not a contra-indication to operative interference.—*Canada Lancet*.

#### PRESERVATION OF CAT-GUT LIGATURES.

Professor Gross is not at all in favor of carbolyzed oil as a preservative of cat-gut ligatures, claiming that it merely forms a nidus for germs. He recommends putting the animal ligature in a weak chromic acid solution and glycerine for about a week, and then placing in the following mixture until needed.

R.—Alcohol	part 15.
Glycerine	part 1.
Acid carbolic	10 p. c.

M.

The placing of the cat-gut in a 1-1000 corrosive sublimate solution, just before using, makes it soft and pliable.