

That in view of the exaggerated fear of the infectivity of pulmonary tuberculosis entertained by the public, the consequent unnecessary disabilities imposed upon sufferers from the disease, and the opposition raised in many places to the establishment of institutions for its detection and treatment, a reassuring statement with regard to the degree of danger attaching to contract and communication with tuberculous persons be prepared by the College and issued in its name at an early date.

It was resolved with reference to this:

That the subject of Dr. Fremantle's motion on the infectivity of pulmonary tuberculosis be referred to a special committee, nominated by the President, which shall make a report to the College at an early date.

The resident nominated as members of the Committee Drs. Sharkey, Habershon, Sandwith, Fremantle, and C. J. MPartin, F.R.S.

At the Comitia on April 6th, the Committee presented the following report, which was adopted.

REPORT ON THE INFECTIVITY OF TUBERCULOSIS.

1. Tuberculosis is an acquired disease, but certain constitutional types may be inherited which render the patient specially susceptible to infection, and there is reason to think that such susceptibility is an inherited character.

2. The infective agent is the tubercle bacillus. This may be contained in the various discharges and excreta of the patient, and especially in the sputum of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. No discharge is infective unless it contains tubercle bacillus.

3. Cases of tuberculosis of bones, glands, and internal organs from which there is no discharge or which do not furnish any excretion, and cases of arrested pulmonary tuberculosis, have never been proved to be infectious.

(By arrest is here meant that all symptoms and physical signs of activity have disappeared, and the sputum has either ceased or no longer contains tubercle bacilli).

4. The means by which tubercle bacilli may enter the body are:

(a) *By inoculation* through a wound or abrasion of the skin. This has occasionally occurred to workers in laboratories, *post-mortem* attendants, and others dealing with tuberculous material, and is presumably the way in which lupus is acquired.

(b) *By inhalation*. Susceptible are readily infected by the inhalation of air containing tubercle bacilli, whether in droplets or suspended as fine dust, but in the spread of the disease among human beings the latter appears to be the more important means of infection.