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## Original Communications.

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### PRELIMINARY COMMUNICATION ON THE SPREAD OF TUBERCULOSIS.

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For long one has been at a loss to explain satisfactorily why tuberculosis is not even more common than it is.

With dust-infection as the main cause of its spread, it has seemed a marvel that anyone could escape from the sputa-laden dust of our streets.

The very fact that so many escape, together with the general awakening to the importance of prevention, has led to further investigations, with highly important results.

Not only are we better able to appreciate the spread of tuberculosis, but also that of the infectious diseases such as influenza, diphtheria, etc.

Cornet has shown that it is very difficult to powder sputa so fine that it would remain suspended in the air for any length of time, and also that a very small percentage of guinea pigs caused to inhale sputa dust ever contracted tuberculosis.

It has also been stated, on experimental evidence, that bacilli-laden sputa, dried at room temperature, loses, after a varying length of time, all power of infection.

These statements, if true, would aid us in understanding the limitations to the spread of tuberculosis, but would not explain why association with consumptives should be more dangerous than sojourn in unwatered streets.

Answering this, Flügge has drawn attention to the fine