

mands and necessities of the day are the inventions and successes of to-morrow. The faintest imaginings of the day-dreamer become the veritable castles and realities of the near future. In this class stands preventive medicine and hygiene.

There has been for a number of years a tendency to pay greater attention to the hygiene of the home and school, to physical development and to preventive medicine. Of course, this has been most noticeable in the cities and larger towns, where the authorities have instituted regular medical examinations of the children in the public schools, when the results achieved have been particularly gratifying. This tendency is slowly spreading to rural districts, but I fear that though it is spreading slowly, it is advancing more rapidly than the rural sections as a class are fitting themselves to meet, when confronted by it. It is a notorious fact that in some sections more money and attention is expended on the stock and pig barn than is given to the school-room and yard.

Tuberculosis no longer claims its victims unchallenged, and those who contract it are not abandoned as hopeless cases, but many in the incipient stage recover. Some little time ago a medical practitioner reported that one of his indigent patients had tuberculosis. Our local board was of the opinion that the health of others dwelling in the house was threatened and authorized me to have the patient removed to a hospital or sanatorium. Upon investigation I found that no attempt had been made to secure a satisfactory sputum examination, and while sections 6, 7 and 8 of the regulations for the control of tuberculosis provides for the placing of the sufferer in a hospital or sanatorium, it did not appear clear to us as to what would be the outcome if the patient refused to stay in the institution when taken there. The patient most vehemently and forcibly declared he would not stay or even go to the hospital or sanatorium. We could scarce expect the court to uphold us when a sputum examination had not been made.

We, therefore, visited his home and succeeded in procuring a sample of sputum, which we had examined at the laboratory in London, and it proved to be full of bacilli. With this evidence in our possession we felt safe in ordering the patient removed to the hospital. It is surprising what change in the general attitude of the patient occurred when we confronted him with a positive report from the laboratory on his sputum. For even if he did escape from the institution and we had to institute legal proceedings, we had the evidence of fact on our side. Without a proper sputum examination and report we could not expect to be upheld by the court. However, the patient did not escape (though I fear he would have made the attempt) for the good reason that as soon as he entered the hospital the authorities there placed the patient in