

claim to be the cause of one death out of every seven that occur over the globe, just so long will men, eager to solve the problems which its history presents, devise one means after another to stay its ravages.

The last few years have seen the birth and death of several "cures" for phthisis.

The sulphur gas enemata made many hopeful, but were soon relegated to the past.

Weigert's hot-air treatment, after deceiving many, was shown to have made claims physiologically impossible. Tuberculin caused Berlin to be the "Mecca" of one of the greatest of modern pilgrimages. Yet without avail. It is characteristic of most of the modern suggestions regarding the cure of phthisis, that they try to assist nature. They are not so much antagonistic to the germs of disease, as devices to act as aids to nature in her untiring efforts to lessen pathological processes.

What this conservatism is, we have learned from the post-mortem table. It is to attempt to surround the infecting nidus by a zone of tissue of such a nature that the former will be circumscribed in its effects and either obliterated or cicatrized. To effect this, various drugs have been introduced into the system. Chloride of zinc and cantharidinate of potash are among the most recent suggestions. Still more recently have come the experiments by Drs. Gibbs and Shurly with chlorine inhalations, together with the hypodermic injections of iodine and the chloride of gold and sodium. It is based, its advocates assert, upon scientific principles. It is capable of being used by all physicians. Under these circumstances, it is worthy of more than passing notice.

In a very able article upon the treatment of tubercular disease, Dr. N. B. Shade, of Washington, D.C., sums up the indications as follows :

1. Remove the cause. That is, break up the soil in which the germs develop.
2. Restore the power of assimilating food, thereby increasing the volume and improving the quality of the blood.
3. Repair damaged lung and throat tissue.

On these points doubtless all will agree, but when we come to judge the method by which these results may best be obtained we have almost as many opinions as advocates.

Frequently the good results said to be due to

a certain treatment, if closely investigated, will be found to result from climatic change, tonics, and cod liver oil, so that it becomes difficult to analyze the final product, and to assign to each factor its proper place.

In the *Therapeutic Gazette*, (Dec. 15th), Dr. H. L. Taylor, of Ashville, N.C., reports his results with the Shurly-Gibbes method. The results may be summarized as follows :

Total cases twenty-two.

Advanced cases with no improvement in their condition, six, or twenty-seven per cent. of the whole number.

Advanced cases with improvement, eight, or thirty-six per cent. of the whole number.

Cases which have shown very great improvement, including advanced and incipient cases, eight, or thirty-six per cent. of the total.

It is impossible to compare these results with those obtained (without the injections), in those cases in which reliance was placed entirely upon climatic and tonic treatment, with attention to symptoms as they arose, for two reasons.

The first is, that many cases are so far advanced that euthanasia is the one object of all treatment. They cannot oftentimes reach their homes alive. Such cases would throw the balance at once to the side of the Shurly-Gibbes treatment, and evidently unjustly. The second reason is, that, in parallel cases, the comparison could only be made with those who have refused the Shurly-Gibbes remedies,—patients who have not had the courage to undergo the treatment. The temperament of such cases is against them in their battle for health.

Time alone will tell whether this treatment is of any real value, its greatest drawback is the severe pain caused by the iodine injections, and the tendency to the formation of abscesses at the site of puncture.

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#### CANADIAN MILITARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The meeting held in May for the purpose of inaugurating the above Association was entirely successful. A constitution was drawn up which will be confirmed at the first annual meeting. The following were the officers elected :

*Hon. President.*—Surgeon-General Bergin.

*President.*—Surgeon Strange, I.S.C., Toronto.