

niture of a woman who died of consumption was publicly burnt by order of the magistrates. In 1754 the Grand Duke of Tuscany sought council from the Florence College of Physicians as to the infectiousness of consumption, and a legislative enactment for the prevention of consumption was issued in 1782 by Frederick IV., King of Naples. Thus, in the medical history of Europe we are enabled by records to trace very marked activity in the line of defense against the infectious character of consumption.

The one great source of contagion is the sputum of the consumptive patient, and particularly in its dried state. Fortunately, all those who inhale or ingest tubercle germs do not contract consumption. Much depends on a lowered state of the system, rendering it fit soil for its development. The surroundings of the individual limit greatly the infectious character of this disease. Much of the immunity from consumption depends on the care, prudence, and watchfulness exercised to promote a healthy state of the system, and to counteract any disposition toward a lowering of normal vitality, by careful observation and action, both as to external conditions or surroundings and the internal workings of the system, the very fortifications set up by nature to guide, direct, and preserve health.

All interested in tuberculosis should be alive to the fact that it is a preventable disease, and as a most desirable precaution against its spread, those laboring under the disease should use a metal sputum cup, which, with contents, can be thoroughly boiled, and thus act against infection. Strict quarantine should be exercised against the importation of foreign consumptives. Connecticut Medical Society Report, 1899, states:

"Every building where large gatherings frequent becomes a source of danger, unless precautions are used, for where can a large gathering be found that some consumptive does not frequent? Theaters, churches, school-rooms, with vitiated air and packed doors, our homes where consumptives live, the mill, the office, the sleeping car, hotels and cottages, in all health resorts where consumptives congregate, and even the public telephone and drinking cup, may become sources of infection."

Ship-owners should be careful that berths holding several passengers should not have even one of these