

self ought to be sufficient to compel all thinking men and especially all medical men to ask, and if possible to answer, the questions, is tuberculosis a preventable disease, and if so, how can it be prevented? I further find by this report that of the deaths from tuberculosis, 1,359 or more than one half occurred between the ages of 10 and 29. The school age is from 5 to 21. Now, we all know that tuberculosis is a disease which in the great majority of cases runs a course of several years. It is fair, therefore, to presume that most of the deaths resulting from tuberculosis between the ages of 10 and 29 were due to disease contracted after the victims were 5 years old and before they were past 21, i.e., during the school age. No doubt many of these deaths were of people who never attended any of our schools, and many more of them were those who would have contracted the disease if they had never been at school. It would, therefore, be manifestly unfair to lay to the charge of our schools all these deaths from tuberculosis simply because they occurred at or about the school age. We all know that tuberculosis is a disease of early life, but such a large proportion, 1,359 out of 3,405, or two-fifths of the total number of deaths occurring at this period of life, forces upon one the necessity of endeavoring to answer the question are our schools in any way responsible for the large number of deaths which occur at or about the school age? In order that we may answer this question satisfactorily we must know the cause of tuberculosis and the mode or modes by which this disease is propagated.

As to the cause of tuberculosis there is no doubt. Tuberculosis is always due to the bacillus tuberculosis. Whenever we have a case of tuberculosis we will find in the system of the patient the bacillus. The disease does not exist without its causal germ. These statements are now regarded by the profession as axiomatic and I shall not attempt to prove their truth. But accepting these statements as truisms, we have yet to account for the entrance of the bacilli into the body of a new host. Four methods of entrance are recognized, viz. :—

1. Directly from parent to child or congenitally.
2. By inoculation of bacilli bearing matter.