

containing a series of questions relative to the personal condition and hygienic surroundings of phthisical patients. He has now published a small pamphlet which embodies and tabulates the answers received from his correspondents with reference to 250 cases of well-marked tubercular pulmonary consumption. The results arrived at, as might have been anticipated, confirm many of the well-known facts concerning the etiology of pulmonary tuberculosis. A few points, not so generally recognized, are emphasized by Dr. Playter in his general conclusions. "One of the most marked features, and perhaps the most important one, brought out in the analysis of the cases, is the evidence that those who die of the disease under consideration have a small pulmonary capacity—a small, contracted chest. This is shown not only in the average of the cases, but in every case—in not one did the circumference of the chest even approximate that of a well-developed individual of the same height and weight." Another point, specially interesting now with reference to the germ-origin of tubercle, is that of the contagiousness of phthisis. A considerable proportion of the reported cases, 28 per cent., had been known to be much and directly exposed to the disease, nursing and sleeping with friends suffering from it. The writer seems to accept the existence of the bacilli as the cause of the disease, and thus expresses the reason why contagion is not more frequently witnessed. "The bacilli of consumption in the human organism must meet with favorable soil and favorable conditions in which to propagate before they can give rise to the fatal malady. These conditions are secondarily through inharmonious and defective constitutional organization and want of vigor, coupled with, very likely, accumulations in the body of detritus matters, and, primarily, from want of capacity for the perfect performance of the respiratory function—from too small lungs." The practical inference from this is "to increase, in early life, by judicious physical exercise, the size and capacity of the respiratory organs."

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We regret to have to announce that, with the issue and completion of its eighth volume, our esteemed contemporary, the