

THE BEST TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS IN THE TUBERCULAR, PRE-TUBERCULAR AND IN THE EARLY STAGE OF TUBERCULOSIS.

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After long and mature deliberation I decided not to write a learned and scientific dissertation on tuberculosis for this meeting, for two reasons. The first is, I could not do it if I would; the second, you probably would not understand it if I could. Such being the case, I shall endeavour to offer you something suited to our limited capacities; to temper the wind to the shorn lamb; to feed you as babes and sucklings should be fed. Moreover, having cut ourselves loose from the trammels of the very learned, we shall not feel bound to observe that accuracy of thought and nicety of expression that should be characteristic of the scientific mind, but shall, the rather, consider ourselves at liberty to indulge in even extravagant forms of expression, when they seem best fitted to impress truths that appear to us important.

In these latter days the profession seems prone to forget that Medicine is an art as well as a science; that it is concerned not alone with the attainment of a knowledge of disease, but also with the practical application of that knowledge in the consulting room and at the bedside. We hear a very great deal nowadays of "laboratory methods" and "original research." Men delight to speak of microtomes, staining methods, cultivation tubes, germ colonies and microscopical appearances. They forget that the business of the rank and file of the profession is not to be learned, but to be practical.

Far be it from me to cast a slight on the real men of science in the profession; the men who, by years of painstaking research, have done so much to rescue us from empiricism, and, at least, point out to us the direction in which rational treatment lies. And yet although we have, by the aid of these men, progressed so rapidly in our knowledge of the Bacteriology, Pathology and diagnosis of disease, is it not a fact that treatment, the *raison d'être* of the whole science, has been sadly neglected? Are the methods of treatment actually in vogue to-day so much ahead of those of half a century ago? One sometimes wonders if, after all, we have improved so very much on the treatment of a