

it occurs most frequently between the ages of 10 and 20; is met with oftener in the summer months; is caused in about 8 per cent. of all cases by injuries, and is preceded, in the great majority of cases, by some form of digestive derangement, as diarrhea or constipation. Foreign bodies entering the appendix, or forming in it, play an unimportant part in the causation of appendicitis. These inflammations are of bacterial nature. But the bacteria lying in the intestinal canal, usually harmless, may become very virulent, if the health of the parts are deranged by constipation, diarrhea, indigestion or injuries.

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### THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

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At the Congress on Tuberculosis, held in London a short time ago, Dr. Robert Koch, whose name is so well known as the discoverer of the tubercle bacillus, gave utterance to the following views in his able address. The disease is so seldom hereditary that this source for it may now be practically ignored. The great source of infection in man is the sputum. When consumptives talk and cough they expel from their lungs particles of phlegm laden with the germs of the disease. The sputum is expectorated on the ground and streets, and often on the floors of inhabited dwellings. From these sources the bacilli rise in the air as dust, or are dragged about by clothes and foot-wear. The common use of towels, bed clothing, cups, etc., is highly dangerous. When the population is dense the disease is more prevalent. Overcrowding is very prone to spread the infection. All consumptives should exercise the utmost care not to infect clothing, and to dispose of their sputum properly. All houses where consumptives have lived should be thoroughly disinfected before they are occupied by any one else. Advanced cases should be isolated as much as possible. Whole families have been infected by neglecting these precautions. There should be special hospitals for the consumptives. This would afford a means of treatment and cure for the early cases, and isolation for the advanced and incurable cases. As hospitals are now conducted, they do not desire these cases. These hospitals would gather in the consumptives and separate so many centres of infection from the