

impossible in the present state of society to entirely put a stop to these evils and that the more rational and practical plan is to aim at their regulation, rather than at complete suppression. A great deal must necessarily be done by the teaching of the home, in order to overcome these terrible destroyers of the peace and health of humanity.

Let us now turn our attention to the subject of the better breeding of the race. We take great care to raise vigorous and healthy stock on our farms, but we act as if it did not much matter what kind of men and women are reared. Surely every child has the right to be born healthy and fit to fight the battle of life, and it is the bounden duty of the individual and the State to see to it that this result should, as far as practicable, be attained.

In order that this much to be desired end be reached, we should discourage or prevent, as far as possible, the marriage of those who are defective in physical or mental or perhaps even moral qualities, for it is more than probable that these last are also handed down to their progeny. While it is all right and proper that everything possible should be done to alleviate the sufferings and save the lives of the individual, we think the community has a right to demand that the diseased and defective ones should not transmit these characteristics to the rising generation.

Great efforts are, at the present time, being made to save persons from the ravages of tuberculosis, and rightly so, but ought we not to require that those who are themselves rescued from the disease, largely or entirely at the expense of the community, shall not be the means of bringing children into the world who will inherit a more or less pronounced tendency to the same disease, and thus in their turn likely be a burden to their contemporaries.

It is pleasing to those who inherit such a tendency to be told by medical men and others that tuberculosis is not a hereditary disease and that it is only conveyed by contagion, but we think it matters very little whether the child has the disease when he first comes into the world or has given to him a great tendency to contract it. If the soil is eminently suitable to grow the plant and the seed is almost certain to fall upon it, the crop will probably grow sooner or later.

Certainly it is a matter of everyday observation that a considerable percentage of the offspring of tubercular parents become in the course of time themselves tubercular.

We have seen, time and again, several generations exhibiting this taint. It may be that this result occurs because of their coming in contact in some way with the tubercular bacillus, but can we ever hope to guard ourselves against the entrance into the system of so ubiquitous a germ?