

for phthisis? What cool observer really relies nowadays even upon the well-puffed hypophosphites, or looks upon cod-liver oil in any other light than as an excellent alternative to suet pudding or rum-and milk? We know that the treatment of phthisis is now wholly based on principles of prevention, whether these be applied to the suppression of the cause or to the arrest of the mischief which may follow.

I must refer to the prevention of renal and vesical calculus, of cystitis by antiseptic precautions, of glandular disease by purification of the associated mucous tracts, of spinal curvature by a special gymnastic, of a group of cerebral and other diseases by reduction of alcohol, of another group by dealing with the propagation of syphilis or the neutralisation of its poison, of certain phases of insanity by social reforms, of others by the reform of individual habits, of uterine disease by reforming the customs of women. How thankful should be the apoplectic patient to be saved the aggressively curative attacks of our fathers in their time; how thankful the sufferer from pulmonary hæmorrhage to be more skilfully nursed and less vigorously medicated. How bright, again, is the success of preventive medicine in the nursery, whence it has banished calomel, brimstone, and the powders of Gregory and James. But what need of further evidence to prove that while the advance of curative medicine is readily summed up in a few brilliant episodes, the advance of preventive medicine is along the whole line with a steady and uniform tide that knows no ebb.

Let us now see what is to come of this advance of preventive medicine and of this comparative retreat of curative medicine.

I will not fix my eyes on too remote a prospect, I will not contemplate a knowledge so perfect and an art so final as to ensure that every individual shall come into the world flawless and with a full store of implicit energy, when all accident shall be averted, and when every man shall live out his calculated days; but I will more soberly anticipate the time—not, perhaps, very far before us—when it shall be a rare and unreasonable thing for a man of average constitutional value to drift into granular kidney disease, into cardio-arterial degeneration, into insanity, into chronic gout or gravel, into diabetes, into phthisis, or any other twisted and defective state of function, without the means of having his diathesis, his morbid tendencies, and his menacing circumstances measured and explained in their initial stages and, as far as possible counteracted. This is the future of medicine, and this is preventive medicine. We shall probably give more extracts from this excellent address.

MOST RECENT STATEMENTS ON TUBERCULOSIS—CONSUMPTION.

AT the late International Congress of Hygiene in London a great deal of time was devoted to the discussion on tuberculosis, and by the most eminent members of the Congress. Prof. Arlong said, the danger to children of drinking milk from tuberculous cows was great, and he thought could scarcely be exaggerated. Moreover, he held very strongly that except under certain special circumstances, the total condemnation of tuberculous meat was necessary. In a paper by Prof. McFadyean and Dr. Woodhead we read:—"From all that could be learnt—and reference could be made to a large number of sets of statistics, practically proving the point—it was evident that intestinal and mesenteric tubercle was most frequently met with in children during the period after they were weaned, at which time cow's milk had been substituted for mother's milk. The point of entrance appeared in these cases to be by the intestine. They had come to the conclusion that in some cases at least the tubercle bacilli had passed from the intestine into the mesenteric glands without leaving any trace of lesion to indicate their point of entrance. Prof.