

Even slight illness should be treated immediately, and not allowed to progress. This is another reason why patients should be under constant medical supervision, and where can this be obtained properly except in a special institution?

*Importance of early diagnosis.* In every case, as soon as a diagnosis has been made by physical or microscopical examination, and the latter should never be neglected when there is any expectoration, the patient, or one of his relatives or friends, should be told the real and serious nature of the disease, at the same time impressing on them the fact that the disease is usually curable in its earlier stages under proper treatment. From this time onward, till the disappearance of all symptoms of the disease, the patient should be under the guidance of a physician both as to habits, diet, and general mode of life. If, despite all skill and management, the patient does not improve, a change of climate or physician should be recommended before the disease has made much further progress. In all cases where there is chronic fever or tendency to hemorrhage, or loss of weight, it is advisable for the patient to quit work entirely.

It is a great and common mistake, through false kindness, not to tell the patient the real nature of the disease as soon as you yourself are positive. The disease is so slow and insidious that the patient himself rarely believes he has the disease until hemorrhages, night sweats, and other marked symptoms enforce it on his attention. Many patients could have been cured if they had been told the real nature of their disease in time, for they would then have quit work and given nature a fair chance to cure. I remember one patient, a prominent wealthy lawyer in the south, who for six months after I saw him never had a daily maximum temperature less than 103°. His temperature for from three to six months previous must have been as great or greater, and yet until I first saw him he had been actively engaged in his legal practice (and he had one of the largest legal practices in the south), and he had never taken a day off from his work, nor was he advised to take a rest by his medical adviser. When first examined by me both lungs were affected, and his sputa was constantly loaded with bacilli. If his physician had told him the nature of his disease earlier he would have stopped work and given his attention to the cure of his disease, and, judging by his constitution and family history, would have had a good chance for recovery.

This is but one example of a great class of patients which come under the eye of a physician practising in a health resort for consumptives. My experience in such a resort, where consumptives flocked from all quarters for their health, was that three-fourths of them, though they had been under the supervision and treatment of their family physicians, had yet never early been informed of the serious nature of their disease, and had not quit work until they were in advanced stages of the disease.