

for operating, the human family would be decimated. Not even heavily afflicted individuals would justify extreme measures, because cure is not excluded and hereditary transmission is by no means fatal. Hasty play with fate easily leads to tragedies of fate for society.

Most useful it is, when, as in Italy, conviction is carried to the masses that cohabitation with consumptives endangers health, and there is great danger of having sick descendants.

I will mention for the special case, that it is advisable to have a legally sanctioned regulation that every betrothal should confer upon each party, as in case of life insurance, the right to have the other produce a health certificate and that of physicians who enjoy the confidence of the party to search. Self-understood, the physicians must, for this case, be legally freed from the obligation of guarding professional communications.

This leads us to the proposition advanced by many to discuss the obligation of the physician to report cases of consumption. This legal obligation would be one of the worst mistakes which ever emanated on the part of the physicians. As it is untrue that as a general thing, that under favorable hygienic conditions, the intercourse with consumptives is dangerous, then the obligation of reporting might become more fateful.

Think of the danger of causing an unnecessary panic among the people. I have lived to see it immediately after the discovery of Koch and the premature deduction drawn therefrom, and the bad effects it had.

Let us consider that the obligation to report had only a definite sense of the authorities proceeded to isolate the sick. If at every dullness of the apices, with stertorous noise, or bronchial breathing, and with expectoration with Koch cells, we had to make a report, then numberless teachers, all family servants, clerks in bureaus and in industrial establishments would lose their bread through the doctrine that intercourse with them is dangerous, is only correct to a slight extent. Not the obligation to report, but the right to report should be conceded to the physician. Reports should be made only in specially dangerous cases. To wit: Might a teacher in a highly tubercular condition become dangerous when scrofulous, anemic, or children with catarrh attend the school? Society, however, in such cases should come in for the full earnings, if we are not to cause greater misery.

We see that a vast field is conceded in legislation to the question of tuberculosis, a law which takes for its object the erection of sanatoriums and the methods to be followed, which seeks the sanitation and supervision of health resorts, the removal of everything that implies danger may become a blessing.