

to infection, such as damp soil and moisture laden atmosphere, damp dwellings, badly ventilated living apartments, the constant presence of dust or irritating particles in the atmosphere; these are the factors which cause a lowered vital resistance, a catarrhal condition of the air tracts, and thus after a suitable culture medium for the propagation of the tubercle bacillus.

There yet remains another important means of infection in this disease, viz.: the food-supply. Tuberculosis in man and animals is the same disease, and on this account the kind of animals most generally affected by it becomes an important consideration. The disease is most often encountered in cattle, swine and poultry, and in the milk supply, and as these are among our chief means of subsistence it is necessary that strict inspection be had as to the source, quality and sanitary condition of these things.

Children are sometimes infected by tuberculous milk; adults are sometimes infected by tuberculous meats. Our means of guarding against infection by this disease should therefore include a sanitary inspection of the meat products.

How all these matters can be carried out with the greatest factor of safety to the public health is a question full of individual interest to us all. The control of the sanitary condition and the compulsory disinfection of our street cars, public conveyances, theatres and stores should be brought under the authority of the municipal health officer, by the enactment of proper laws for the preservation of the public health. Tubercular persons who cannot receive the proper care, treatment, medication, and be surrounded by proper hygienic conditions, should be taken care of by the municipal or State authorities, thus enhancing their chances of recovery, and at the same time lessening the dangers of infection to those who would otherwise be brought into immediate contact with them.

The only reasonably sure way to guard against infection by this disease is to follow out certain cardinal rules.

One of the first requisites is to associate as little as possible with a tubercular person, and on his part it is necessary to disinfect or to destroy all the material he expectorates, so as to prevent its coming into contact with another person. Tubercular persons should occupy sleeping rooms by themselves, and live as much apart from healthy persons as is possible, and be extremely cleanly in regard to their persons and their habits.

Another point: we should eat plenty of good, nutritious food that will constantly keep the tissues built up to their normal condition, so as to maintain the highest state of vital resistance in order that our phagocytes may ever be ready to do battle with these infecting bacteria. All excesses and all enervating and depressing conditions should be avoided.

Everything which tends to impair our vital resistance should be sedulously guarded against.

All of our living and sleeping apartments should be plentifully supplied with fresh air. Every one should take a sufficient amount of out of door exercise. Calisthenic exercises should be systematically practiced, and the more especially those which increase our vital capacity.

All houses, apartments or rooms which have been occupied by tubercular persons should be thoroughly disinfected before being re-occupied by other persons. The marriage of tubercular persons should be discouraged.

By thus following out rules similar to these dangers of infection will be lessened, and the number of cases of tuberculosis can be considerably reduced.—"The Medical Examiner."

COMPENSATION ACT AND ACCIDENTS.

If the figures furnished by the "Daily News" of London, Eng., are correct, the Compensation Act is likely to prove a very interesting study. The "News" says:—

The Compensation Act came into force in the month of July, 1898. It is therefore possible to judge of its working for an entire year. Let us first take the railways. On these the fatal accidents were, for the twelve months before the Act became operative, 505. In the twelve months after that event they were 522. During the same period the accidents which were not fatal rose by more than a thousand, from 12,837 to 13,992. It may be said that there is something peculiar about railways, and they are not therefore a fair test. Let us try mines. There the fatal accidents rose by a hundred, the others by a hundred and sixty. Take quarries. The men killed in quarries the year before the Act passed were 101. The year after they were 135. The number of injured were 1,256 in the first period and 1,729 in the second. Factories are still more important. How stands the case there? The increase of deaths was a hundred and fifty. The increase of injured was a couple of thousand. In miscellaneous accidents the proportion is smaller. But they tell the same tale. Instead of adding to the security of work-people, the Act has diminished it. The injuries have risen by 38 per cent. and the deaths by 14 per cent. Of course, it will be said—Mr. Chamberlain has probably said it by this time to some anonymous and convenient correspondent—that the increase is purely statistical. The Act has led to a better system of registration, and many of the accidents now reported would not have been reported before. But this explanation cannot, for obvious reasons, apply to the fatal accidents, which were always reported, and which have nevertheless gone up. This sinister rise in the death-rate "has taken place with relentless consistency throughout the different industries, and during the different months." So says our correspondent, and the figures bear out his assertion. We have dealt, for the sake of brevity, only with years. But it is the fact that the growth