

of the distinguished speaker was that if all the living conditions are favorable, the bacillus will be largely disarmed—a sort of *prometheus vinetus*.

Truth at last prevails. We are reaching a clearer understanding about tuberculosis. We know that the disease is *always* caused by the presence of the germ; but the germ must have a suitable soil to breed in and ways and means of getting at that soil. Reduced vigor makes the soil, and careless habits furnish the means of transportation.

THE LAY PRESS AND MEDICINE.

In some of the newspapers there is a health department, into which are gathered up all sorts of opinions regarding the care of the body and the avoidance of disease. Many of these opinions are of the crudest kind, and are clearly intended to advertise some “pathy” or “ism.”

In one of the large dailies the other day appeared some comments on diarrhoea. Let us quote the exact words:

“What is to be done? This severe inflammation and over-activity must be stopped or death from diarrhoea will surely follow. The old system of treatment was to give morphine to stop the pain. This it did, and also stopped the action of the bowels so quickly that in many cases great damage of a permanent nature followed.

“A skilful osteopathic physician will in a few moments inhibit the action of the nerves controlling the peristaltic action of the bowels and thus give immediate relief without harmful after effects. Abstinence from food and the judicious application of cold compresses will give the same satisfactory results, but not so quickly.”

Now, if anyone will look at this statement for a moment he will see the absurdity of it. In the first place, it would be just as bad to stop the peristalsis by some magic power of an osteopath as by a dose of morphine. But in the next place no osteopath, or any other person for that matter, has any such power as to inhibit the action of the nerves in a few moments. A great newspaper should not place before its readers such monstrous teaching. If it will conduct a health department, it should place it under the editorship of an educated medical gentleman, who would not allow such a statement as the foregoing to appear, which is quite erroneous and a crude “puff” for osteopathy, one of the most senseless fads that has ever been flaunted before the eyes of the public. It is founded on ignorance, and carried on in defiance of every known advance in anatomy, physiology, therapeutics and