

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis is to-day one of the most serious problems before our people. The world-wide interest in this subject has arisen from the discovery, that attention to a few simple rules of hygiene, has lessened to a remarkable degree, the death-rate from this disease. That tuberculosis is an infectious, and not an hereditary disease, is the general belief. The experience of the profession has shown that, in the majority of cases, prolonged exposure is necessary for infection from this disease, also that many cases will not produce infection, and that tuberculosis in general is conveyed, as in other infectious diseases, through food, meat, milk, butter, or the atmosphere laden with dry germs from the sputa of consumptives. As to the actually infectious character of this disease, it is prudent that the public should not be alarmed. The welfare of the public, as well as the tuberculous, should be carefully considered. This whole subject rests on the discovery of Dr. Koch, in 1882, of the specific "Bacillus Tuberculosis". According to the most recent statistics, every 6th or 7th death is due to tuberculosis, and the most common form is consumption. The Registrar General's returns (Toronto, January 21.) show that in a death rate of 25,736 in Ontario in 1901, the largest number of deaths in any class was 2,286 from tuberculosis, as compared with 2,300 in 1900. In 1898 there were over 3000 deaths from consumption in Ontario, more than the entire contingent sent to South Africa, who fought so nobly for the defence of "The Empire".

"How can we check this disease?" is a question frequently asked. In all places where people congregate, there should be properly placed cuspidors, well kept, and systematically cleaned. Carpeting in churches should be avoided to prevent saturation by impure expectoration carried from the side walks, and gradually as fine dusts, impregnating the air of the chamber, and particularly as human sputum is the main source of human tuberculosis. A handkerchief held before the mouth and nose of a consumptive while coughing, is a desirable precaution. In such cases all interviews should be brief.

Dr. Ferguson, Hartford, Connecticut, made the following statement, May 25th, 1899: "A house was vacated by a consumptive, and occupied by a family of whom *three* died shortly after of consumption". Such experience has been frequently recorded by the medical profession. In fact it is known that Tubercle Bacilli may remain active in a house for years. It is of the utmost importance that houses rented should be thoroughly purified and freed from such germs. A very consoling fact to the parents of consumptives is, that there is no danger of living with a consumptive patient, if proper precautions, such as simple measures of cleanliness, are observed. The Michigan State Board of Health, and the New York Board of Health, now require notification and registration of