

may pass directly from individual to individual, and the disease be communicated by contact (such contagion is rather rare) the disease may also be set up *by the breathing in of the dust of rooms in which there have been those suffering from consumption.* Where the lungs are affected, as every medical student knows from his work in the hospitals, thousands of those little rods may be brought up with the sputum each time the patient expectorates on the floor, and the sputum dries there, or even if he spits into his handkerchief and this dries, in either case so much dry dust containing live bacilli is produced, and this collecting on the walls or in the dark corners remains for long a source of possible infection for other people.

Let us give some examples which will prove the reality of what we have said :

In Germany the nursing of the sick in hospitals is largely carried on by religious sisterhoods and brotherhoods, and when in Germany out of every hundred deaths in the ordinary population, between twenty-three and twenty-four are due to tuberculosis, it follows that in general hospitals a very large number of the patients must be tuberculous, and that the nurses must necessarily and continually be coming into contact with the disease. Now Dr. Cornet has carefully examined into the statistics of thirty-eight of these nursing confraternities during a period of twenty-five years, examining the causes of over 4000 deaths, and of this number *out of every hundred nurses over sixty-two died from tuberculosis*, or to put the matter in another light, he found that while between eighteen and fifty years of age never less than half of the nurses died of consumption, etc.—at certain ages (35 to 50 for example), nearly three-quarters of them fell victims to this disease. Indeed, as Dr. Cornet showed, a nurse in Germany at twenty-five stands in the same position as a woman of fifty-eight, not a nurse, with regard to prospect of life.

Equally clear evidence of the communicability of phthisis to those living with, or in the same house with phthisical patients is given by Dr. Flick of Philadelphia, who mapped out every death that occurred in a single ward of that city during a period of twenty-five years.

He found that during the period in question less than one-