

THE RESULTS OF SANATORIA AND SPECIAL HOSPITAL TREATMENT IN PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.*

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A number of interesting questions arises in discussing the results of hospital and sanatorium treatment in pulmonary tuberculosis. Comparisons can be made between the results of treatment in sanatoria and hospitals for tuberculosis, but statistics are so notoriously uncertain that only an approximate opinion can be obtained from the figures available. This is due to the fact that the various modes of classifying cases as regards their stage of disease are so different. One must also remember that sanatoria take mostly incipient cases, whereas hospitals take cases in all stages. For example, at the Royal National Hospital, at Ventnor, there have been treated since 1870 nearly 17,000 cases. ("Prevention of Consumption." By Dr. J. G. Sinclair Coghill, *Nineteenth Century*, Feb. 1899,) and of these hardly one per cent. of the cases admitted were in the first stage, whereas at Gœrbersdorf, they amounted to 27.62 per cent. Moreover, patients received at a hospital are in a much different physical condition than those received at a sanatorium, since, up to almost the present time, sanatoria have treated patients who are well-to-do, whereas hospitals have treated the ill-nourished poor.

In Knopf's thesis on "Les Sanatoria: Traitement et Prophylaxie de la Phthisie Pulmonaire," read before the Faculty of Medicine of Paris in 1895, there is a table of results which I, in part, copy. I also take the liberty of copying a table of results from E. L. Trudeau's article on "The Adirondack Cottage Sanitarium for the Treatment of Incipient Pulmonary Tuberculosis," which appeared in the *Practitioner* for February, 1899.. (See table.) I wish for a little to dwell on these tables, further on I shall discuss the terms "cured," "apparently cured," "disease arrested," and "improved."

In the second table it is seen that of the incipient cases that remained an average of nine months at the Adirondack Cottage Sanitarium, 73 1-3 per cent. were "apparently cured," while 34.48 per cent. of all the cases that remained an average of nine months were "apparently cured." In the first table, 26.38 per cent. is given. This has to do with the total number of patients that were admitted to the sanatorium in the year 1898.

* Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, April 17, 1899.