

therapeutician Oppolzer, have I paid attention to the various questions, and for that reason I take the liberty of taking part in the general discussion, and I believe that I can advance many ideas which will not be broached by others.

## II. THE INFECTIOUSNESS.

The most important question is probably that of the infectious capacity of consumption.

It is well to consult in all questions the greatest teacher—history—and there we find that a great master in the so-called obscure, but often sunlit antiquity, that Galen had already affirmed that question and recognized the most important condition of infection. He teaches: "With phthisic patients there are putrid exhalations in the room which they inhabit and a foetid smell. Experience shows that persons sleeping in the same bed with phthisic patients or a longer period of time dwell together, eat and drink with them, or use their clothing or linen without these having been purified of their noxious quality, are attacked also by phthisis." We will recur later to the full importance of this doctrine for the knowledge of which I am indebted to Dr. Max Neuburger.

A second important lesson from history I draw from the fact that the danger of infection from tuberculosis cannot be very great, as it disappeared temporarily from the consciousness of the scientific world. If such authority in clinics like Skoda and Oppolzer could overlook such causes of the origin of tuberculosis, then infection could only take place under specially favoring conditions. Doubtless the danger of infection is exaggerated to-day in its sociological dangerous manner. There exist peculiar conditions, not known to us yet in their exact existence, under which infection takes place.

A further lesson from history, which on this occasion looms up drastically, is that every advance in science brings with it also a retrocession. With the great acquisitions of pathological anatomy, which conceived the tubercles as "new formations," disappeared the old doctrine of the origin by infection. Of this general principle, which is constantly evidenced, we must take the admonition to ask anew to-day, whether there is not in the present day progress a partial misconception of the truth?

## III. THE HOMES OF THE INFECTED.

If we inquire into the conditions and opportunities of the danger of infection we meet first the question of habitation. The abode of the populace, the home of misery, is the most important breeding place of consumption. In these dwellings thorough ventilation, sunshine and cleanliness are out of consideration. The poison of disease broods in the filth which fills the air and which sticks and accumulates on the walls,