

than another in which the work of the experimentalist has led to faulty generalisation from a clinical point of view, it is with regard to the course of certain tuberculous lesions. Nor will anyone think, I trust, that I would underrate the value of the work of the experimental pathologist; it certainly is not so, for it is to these workers that we owe our knowledge of the precise cause of diphtheria as well as of tuberculosis—of tetanus and erysipelas, and of many other serious diseases. And knowing the cause we have been enabled in many cases greatly to influence the course of the disease by treatment. Indeed, it would be almost impossible to over-estimate the practical value of experimental laboratory work both to the profession and to the public. Nevertheless there are some of the public who, in their ignorant well-meaning, would once and for all stop such beneficent research. But stranger still, there are some members of our own profession in England who also try to get in the way of scientific progress. Fortunately, however, they have not the power of doing much harm!

Not long ago we used the word “strumous” or “scrofulous” when we were in a surgical corner; but to-day these indefinite terms are deleted from our nosology; indeed, they are devoid of scientific meaning, and we now call *tubercle* by its proper name, our patients reaping the benefit of our greater precision.

From the medical point of view an unusual amount of attention has lately been drawn to the subject of tuberculosis by means of excellent societies which have recently been organized to carry on a never-to-be-ended warfare against the disease. Taking its birth upon the Continent, the scheme has received a considerable amount of support in Canada, in the United States, in England and elsewhere, and its effect cannot be but for good.

### THREE IMPORTANT FACTS.

There are three great facts in connection with tuberculosis of which the public must be made fully conscious:

The first is that the disease is *communicable*. The truth of this fact we have ourselves only of late entirely realized.