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EDITORIAL

CHANGE OF OPINION REGARDING CONSUMPTION.

Tempora mutantur et nos in illis mutamur is truer perhaps with regard to the changed opinions on consumption than on any other disease. As far back as the memory of any medical gentleman living can go, there have not been wanting those who have been vaunting the virtues of some remedy for the disease. But it remains as true to-day as it was many years ago, when a very eminent physician wrote that "no medicinal remedy has, as yet, been found which can be regarded as a specific for tuberculosis."

The pioneer in the matter of applying common sense to the management of consumption was undoubtedly Dr. George Bodington, of Sutton Coldfield, in England. In 1840, he published his treatise on pulmonary tuberculosis, and the natural, rational and successful methods of curing the disease. He advocated a generous diet, and abundance of fresh air, holding that the weather was never too cold for such patients, and that their rooms should be kept well aired, so that they would resemble the air outside. But both he and his book met with the most vehement opposition, and he was forced to close his sanatorium, the first of its kind in the world.

Dr. Henry MacCormac published a similar book in 1855, and with the effect of drawing down upon himself a violent storm of abuse. He read a paper in 1861, on the preventibility of consumption, before the Royal Medical Society. The society refused to accord him the usual vote of thanks, regarding the paper as the effort of a deranged intellect.

Veritas magna est et prevalebil. The great Dr. Hughes Bennett, with all his brilliancy of language and force of character, espoused these despised views. "The diet must be of a nutritious kind, good ventilation is essential, and proper exercise promotes the appetite" are his words towards the more modern views now prevailing everywhere.

Dr. P. W. Latham, in 1864, urged "a generous diet, continuous ventilation, and regular exercise in the open air." Bennett and Latham were not hooted at so boldly as had been the case with Bodington and MacCormac, though there were not lacking those who sneered to scorn their teachings.