

sleep in the same rooms, and never in the same bed with phthisical. Overcrowding in houses, factories, schools, etc., must be avoided.

Public bodies have a duty to perform. They should inspect dwellings, factories, schools, streets, drains and such things, to see that no insanitary conditions are allowed to exist that could be got rid of. They should do what they can to instruct the public in the necessary rules of guidance regarding tuberculosis, as to the nature of the disease, the importance of good sanitary conditions, and the precautions the sick ought to observe. The public is now beginning to take real interest in all these questions, and much good is bound to come from it.

Since early diagnosis is of great importance, public bodies should make arrangements for the gratuitous examination of sputum and other discharges. Proper sanatorium and hospital accommodation ought to be provided for the treatment of the early cases, and for the isolation of the advanced cases. Many advanced cases with profuse expectoration or diarrhoea, are sources of danger to the community, as, owing to their weakness, they are often unable to attend to personal cleanliness, the destruction of sputum, etc. To sum up, patients should be instructed as to what to do in the way of disinfection, etc., necessary appliances should be provided free of charge to poor patients, all insanitary conditions should be removed, the rooms occupied by phthisical patients should be disinfected, and hospital accommodation should be provided for certain advanced, poor cases.

Although many distinguished medical authorities are opposed to the compulsory notification of phthisis, nevertheless, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. It must be understood that this statement is only made on the proviso that the object is to reduce all forms of tuberculous disease to the greatest extent possible by the means at our command. If the object is merely to deal with phthisis in a way which is easy and agreeable, compulsory notification is not necessary, nor advisable. But if the object is to reduce the prevalence of the disease to the greatest possible extent, compulsory notification is necessary.

Phthisis is the most prevalent and fatal disease to which the human race is liable. In England and Wales 40,000 die annually of this disease. Dr. A. Newsholme estimates that between the ages of 15 and 50, one-fourth of all the deaths is due to it; and Dr. H. Biggs thinks that one-half of the entire adult population, at sometime in life, acquire the disease. In most modern, civilized countries, phthisis causes more deaths than all the other infectious diseases lumped together. Further, a great majority of those who die of phthisis are adults, whereas many who die of other infectious diseases are children. Again phthisis only too often carries off the brightest and the best of the race. It must also be remem-