

hotels and boarding houses, and the instruction of the patients and their families as to the nature of the disease and the means to be taken for its prevention; the inspection of the premises in all instances where deaths were reported as due to tuberculosis, and the issuing of orders, when it was deemed necessary, upon the owners of apartments which had been occupied by consumptives and vacated by death or removal, requiring that such apartments be thoroughly renovated, by cleaning and by painting, papering or kalsomining, before they were again occupied by other persons; and finally the education of the public, by wider and more comprehensive methods, as to the nature of this disease.

Placards were attached to the doors to prevent the re-occupation of apartments, which had been vacated by death or removal before the orders requiring renovation had been complied with.

Under the resolutions by virtue of which these measures were enforced, 4,166 cases of tuberculosis were reported in 1894; 5,818 in 1895, and 8,334 in 1896. So far as was possible all of these cases, except those in private houses, were visited or the premises where they had lived were inspected, and, in addition, the premises occupied by persons dying from tuberculosis (numbering each year nearly 6,000) were inspected and such action taken as was considered possible and desirable. Altogether the premises and cases thus coming under observation during these three years numbered more than 35,000.

These facts convey some idea of the enormous sanitary importance of the subject. It is conservatively estimated that there are at least 20,000 cases of well developed and recognized pulmonary tuberculosis now in New York City, and an additional large number of obscure and incipient forms of the disease. A very large proportion of the former cases constitute more or less dangerous centres of infection, the degree of danger depending in each instance upon the intelligence and care which is exercised in the destruction of the expectoration. All the suffering and death consequent upon the prevalence of this disease, in view of modern scientific knowledge, is largely preventable by the careful observation of simple, well understood and easily applied measures of cleanliness, disinfection and isolation.

In the beginning of 1897, the Health Board further adopted some recommendations made jointly by Dr. T. Mitchell Prudden, Consulting Bacteriologist to the Health Department, and the writer, which advised that pulmonary tuberculosis be declared to be an "infectious and communicable disease, dangerous to the public health," and which required "the notification of all cases occurring in the city," in the same way as is required in regard to typhoid fever, diphtheria and