

certain diseases has been determined and the mode of this communication from one to another rendered intelligible. Cholera, small-pox, etc., have carried off millions of the human race in days gone by. Now that their infectious nature is understood; now that we know the means whereby their spread is favoured; now that we know that isolation of infected patients, together with the necessary disinfecting measures and improved sanitary conditions for those likely to be exposed to the infection, confines the ravages of these dread diseases within narrow limits, we are able to cope with them and save mankind from untold suffering and death. Great, however, as has been the havoc which those and other infectious diseases have in the past inflicted upon the human race, the number of deaths attributable to any of them is insignificant when we compare it with the deaths due to tuberculosis. At least one-fifth of the human race die of tuberculosis. Can nothing be done to check the ravages of this fell destroyer of the human family? Before answering this question it will be necessary to determine whether this disease is infectious or not, and clearly to understand what circumstances favour its spread if it be infectious.

Is tuberculosis infectious? Until very recently we could not have answered this question in the affirmative. In 1882 Koch demonstrated the presence of a micro-parasite in all tuberculous lesions. Many investigators have followed up the work of which he then laid the foundations, and verified his statements. But it might be objected that the finding of this parasite in tuberculous lesions does not prove that tuberculosis is caused by it. True. For this reason investigators have pushed the study of this question experimentally, and their conclusions are thus summed up in Allbutt's "System of Medicine:"

"(a) The bacillus is found in tubercular lesions, both in man and animals. . . .

(b) The bacillus has been separated from tubercular lesions in man and cows, and from the sputum of man, and obtained in pure cultivation.

(c) Inoculation into susceptible animals of the tubercle bacillus, obtained in pure cultivation, produces exactly the same disease, both anatomically and in the mode of distribution of the lesions, as in man or animals which suffer naturally from tuberculosis.