

But happily it is an enemy whose tactics and whose plan of campaign we have mastered during these last ten years, and if medical men have not yet learnt how to make sure of defeating it when once it has made an entrance into the human body, this at least they have learnt, how to guard against that entrance.

We know now from Koch's great discovery that consumption and all the other forms of tuberculosis are brought about by a minute rod-like body, the *Bacillus of Tuberculosis*—a minute body which when once it gains a foothold in the lungs or any other part is only with great difficulty killed, for it is very tenacious of life, and by its growth and multiplication, and by the substances that it gives off in the course of its growth it causes the fever, the wasting, and the other symptoms associated with the malady.

The peculiarity of these bacilli is that under ordinary conditions they cannot grow outside of the bodies of warm-blooded animals, such as man and cattle. It follows, therefore, that tuberculosis can only arise from a previous case of tuberculosis, the bacilli that have grown in one body are taken into another and so infect it. This first body may have been that of a human being or, as is often the case, of a domestic animal. For the domestic animals are liable to tuberculosis, and of these the cow is most often the cause of infection, through the fact that its teats and udders not unfrequently become tubercular; consequently the milk may contain the bacilli. Now as the milk is given to children unboiled or unscalded the living bacilli pass into the bowel and there set up abdominal disease.

In those grown up, the lungs are the usual starting point, that is to say, the bacilli are taken in with the air that is breathed. How do they get into the air?

If these bacilli will not grow outside the body they are, on the other hand, as we have remarked, very tenacious of life. They can remain alive and in a dormant state for months, if not for years. And the conditions under which they keep alive are (1) that they are in a dried state; (2) that they are not exposed to a very great heat; (3) that they are not exposed to bright sunlight.

From what we have said it follows that while the bacilli