

MEDICAL EXPERT TESTIMONY.

Among a great many, the belief still exists that consumption, once declared to be present, must cause all hope to be abandoned. According to Dr. S. A. Knopf, of New York, such is not the case. To convince a patient to the contrary, to instil in him the hope of recovery, to encourage him in his persistent effort to carry out all the details which tend to improve his condition, should constitute an important part of the educational treatment of all consumptives.

Professor Bouchard, of Paris, concluded one of his lectures as follows :—“This disease, which has such a strong hold on humanity, is curable, and in the largest number of cases.”

Professor James Goodhart, London, England, says :—“ I am able to say that there is nothing more common than to find in those, dead from other causes, evidences of old and healed phthisis or calcareous changes in the various glands ; moreover, in most cases of tubercular disease there is similar evidence that a former disease of the kind has healed. I am, therefore, accustomed to say that there is no disease that gives stronger evidence of healing tendencies than phthisis.”

Dr. Whittaker, of Cincinnati, says :—“ It is a great exception to find upon the post-mortem table a pair of lungs totally free from some evidence of existing or pre-existing tuberculosis.”

Dr. Knopf further says :—“ If I had to choose between sending a patient to what is usually considered an ideal specific climate, but where he would live in an ordinary health resort, or keeping the patient home in a fairly pure atmosphere, and applying the hygienic and dietetic treatment under constant medical supervision, I should choose the latter method of treatment, and think the patient had a far better chance of recovery.”

This is a very strong plea for sanatoria with constant medical supervision, and coming from such a universally recognized authority is not without great weight.