

of direct infection in pulmonary tuberculosis. Professor Friedeberg calls it the workingman's disease, as 50 per cent. of the mortality in their clubs is due to tuberculosis.

At a meeting of the medical directors of the leading British insurance companies, held in February of this year, the speakers, whilst asserting more or less strongly their faith in the doctrine of hereditary tendency in tuberculosis, interspersed their discussions freely with such statements as the following: "It has practically escaped notice that the strongest arguments used to support the theory of family tendency to tuberculosis tell with, at least, equal force in favor of the view that infection is the cause of the incidence and spread of tuberculosis. The close, intimate circumstances of family life, the infection of the family home, and the total disregard of precautionary measures in the family life, because of ignorance—these facts, I venture to say, play a much larger part in the tragedy of family liability to tuberculosis than does hereditary tendency to that disease. But these facts have been altogether ignored in estimating the value of family tendency to tuberculosis in its bearing on life assurance." "Every gentleman in this room knows when a man is in a good state of health; if he is plump and round, and his pulse regular, and all his internal organs are healthy, it matters little what his family history has been."

Dr. Marsh, medical director of the Mutual Life Assurance, of New York, says: "In deciding upon the eligibility of an applicant for life assurance in whose case there is a suspicion of future danger from consumption, his personal condition is of first, and his family record of second, importance. Whenever he presents a robust physical appearance, with a weight, at least, equal to the standard or average, as given in our tables, he may be accepted, notwithstanding any taint in the record of his family. In our experience such persons have a small liability to consumption, although not protected from it."

The same trend of opinion can be found in all the most recent works on "The Practice of Medicine." The authors, although devoting some attention to the theory of heredity, lay special emphasis on the infectious character of tuberculosis.

Time will only permit a brief reference to one or two quotations from statistics. The report of the British Registrar-General gives as the mean annual mortality from tuberculosis per million living at all ages, during the period 1851-80: Males under fifteen, 2,082; over sixty-five, 2,842. Here we have a larger number of deaths from tuberculosis during the last fifteen years of life than during the first; or, in other words, the grandfathers seem more susceptible to tuberculosis than the grandchildren. This, since pathology and statistics alike show that childhood possesses no immunity from tuberculosis, appears very remarkable, if heredity be a strong factor in predisposing to this disease, to find in that part of the stream of life nearest the diseased fountain head, there is less danger to the young voyageur than there is in that portion