

the United States, he will see that the need was very great, and the result very valuable. In Boston alone the inspection has saved more than its cost in the prevention of infectious disease alone.

In another portion of this issue we give the report of a committee of the Academy of Medicine on this subject. We recommend it to our readers.

FIGHTING TUBERCULOSIS.

The public is sometimes very inert and may require much agitation and education to move. It does seem, however, as if the lever of Archimedes was getting under the mass of human inertia, and that it was beginning to rise.

For years we have urged that tuberculosis was infectious and spread from the sick to the well. Over and over again we have stated that from nothing, nothing comes. From the seed the crop is true here as the late Dr. Bristowe said shortly after Koch announced his discovery of the bacillus.

What a noise would be made if smallpox, or the plague carried off 10,000 victims in this country every year, and seriously sickened 40,000 others! The cry would go up from the length and breadth of the land for protection. There would be appointed a whole army of medical officers and nurses, and isolation stations would dot the land, and the pestilence would be stayed.

In the case of tuberculosis we stand and look on. We see the people dying all around us of a disease that is both curable and preventable. We say curable, because the investigations of pathologists tell us of countless numbers who died of other diseases, and reveal in their bodies the evidences of old tubercles from which they recovered. Some eminent authorities say as much as 90% of those on whom careful post mortems are made show the presence of old tubercles.

Then, again, we say it is preventable; and, if preventable, why not prevent it as his Majesty King Edward said once. The reason we do not prevent is because we have not tried. One may make bricks without straw, but he cannot do it without clay. The earthly thing is needed; and so we have been trying to prevent consumption too much on talk, and not enough with money.

Money is needed to erect sanatoria, to care for the sick, to send them away, to remunerate them for enforced loss of time, to disinfect homes, to educate the people, etc. The people in the United States spend annually on tobacco \$240,000,000, and on drink \$1,500,000,000. It is only fair to suppose that the people of this country keep up about the