

twenty years. These contributions are both direct and indirect, and according to the law of mutuality represent a sum superior to \$500, but this sum total, if it errs, does so on the side of conservatism.

The value of a human life at this industrial period as fixed by courts of law, reaches its maximum between the 25th and 35th year, according to Marshall Leighton, is \$8,000. The average is \$6,000, and according to my computations, should be divided as above indicated. Thus to the Federal Government the deaths from tuberculosis represent an annual loss of \$8,000,000; to the several municipal governments a loss of \$4,000,000, the communities interested making up the remainder of the total, which is \$32,000,000, bringing the total for the country to \$48,000,000 annually. Through invalidation by the disease, of 40,000 individuals, there is an annual loss in productiveness amounting to at least 10 per cent. of their per capita value, representing the sum of \$24,000,000. The grand total yearly loss to the country is, therefore, according to above calculations, \$72,000,000. Yet in the face of all this preventable loss very little is being done. In 1901 an article appeared in *Virchow Archives*, written by Otto Naegali, of Zurich, in which conclusive evidence was brought to light to the effect that 96 per cent. of all living individuals over eighteen years old had tuberculosis, either in its latent or active form. This means that practically every individual over eighteen years of age is tainted. What can we infer from this? Merely that the human body, naturally resistant of the disease, acquires a certain amount of artificial immunity by this widespread dissemination of the germ of tuberculosis, but involving the sacrifice of over 2,000,000 lives annually throughout the world. You are all familiar with the literature of the last twenty years upon the subject of tuberculosis, and you are also familiar with the very excellent methods which were introduced into the City of New York by Dr. Biggs, in 1897, in order to control the disease through the City Board of Health. The system was considered so thorough that no less an authority than Koch made reference to it at the last Tuberculosis Congress, as a measure to be imitated by all cities anxious to get rid of the scourge. Without doubt the death rate in New York has diminished to some extent through the work done by the Board of Health, but one has only to read the report of Dr. Lederle, the Commissioner of Health for the City of New York, to realize how insufficient this method has proved. In his report to Mayor Low, under date of March 26th, 1903, Dr. Lederle speaks as follows: "Tuberculosis remains the greatest cause of deaths in the city, and one which, in my opinion, demands