

The Canadian Practitioner and Review.

VOL. XXIV. TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1899.

NO. 9.

✓Original Communications.

THE HOME TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.*

BY T. F. McMAHON, M.B.

Professor of Medicine Ontario Medical College for Women; Physician to the Toronto
General and St. Michael's Hospitals.

The sanatorium treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis is as yet, and for many years must remain, unattainable by the vast majority of patients. We have now to consider: (1) How shall we prevent the patient treated in his own home from communicating the disease to others? (2) How shall we deal with susceptible individuals so as to minimize the danger of their becoming infected? and (3), Having contracted consumption, what means shall be taken to cure the disease or stay its ravages?

The measures for the prevention of tuberculosis fall naturally under two main heads—first, those for the destruction of the germ or for the prevention of its entrance into the body, and second, those directed to the maintenance of the nutrition of the individual at the highest possible standard. Without the specific germ there can be no tuberculosis, and the germ cannot flourish unless it fall upon good soil. The main sources of infection are two: (1) The sputum, and (2), infected food. We may safely take it that it is the susceptibility and not the disease itself that is often inherited.

The prompt destruction of the sputum would go far towards blotting out the disease, removing as it would the most common factor in its dissemination.

*Read at the Ontario Medical Association, 1899.