

Selected Article.

THE HOME TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION.

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In the city, from the country or from small towns, I not infrequently see persons with pulmonary tuberculosis whose circumstances are such that change of climate or life in a sanitarium is out of the question ; and when we reflect for a moment on the enormous number of cases of phthisis and the trifling accommodation offered in sanatoria, the practical problem which confronts us is, how best to treat the 95 per cent. of cases necessarily confined to their homes. Cannot these poor victims reap some benefit from the recent experience of the profession ?

The usual surroundings of a consumptive are only too well known to all of us. In a majority of cases the treatment is desultory, unsystematic and directed to symptoms alone. It is not too sweeping an assertion to say that of the 8,000 or 10,000 cases of consumption in the city of Baltimore to-day, few live under a definite regime. Last spring I saw in rapid succession two cases which impressed upon me forcibly the familiar fact that our theoretical knowledge of this disease has, as is so often the case, not reached a practical working basis. In a small house in South Baltimore I saw a young man, aged eighteen (one of five children), who had had tuberculosis for at least nine months. Nothing could have been more unfavorable than his surroundings, though the people were of the mechanic class, and of good intelligence. The room was stuffy, ill-ventilated, with both windows closely shut, and the temperature of the room, heated by a small stove, was nearly 80°. He had been in bed for at least three months, with much cough and a great deal of expectoration, some of which was visible on the floor, as it did not always reach the spittoon. He had high fever, loss of appetite, and was being fed on panopeptone and beef extracts. The room had a good exposure, and I suggested to the young man to have the bed removed to the window, to be well covered up, and to rest in the sunshine during part of