

their direct control, of additional hospitals for the care and treatment of this disease. No week passes in which the officers detailed to this work in New York do not encounter many instances in which the members of many households, numerous inmates of crowded tenement houses, employees in dusty and unventilated workshops, and many others, are dangerously exposed to infection from victims of this disease, who cannot gain admittance to the overcrowded public institutions, or who reject all proffered assistance and instruction, and, from ignorance, indifference, or inability through weakness due to the disease, scatter infectious material broadcast, and thus diminish their own chances for recovery and imperil the health and safety of others. In such cases sanitary suggestions are futile, and removal to a hospital constitutes the only effective action. I am convinced that no factor is so potent to-day in perpetuating the ominous death list from pulmonary tuberculosis as the lack of proper facilities for the adequate care of the poor stricken with this malady.

The measures designed for the prevention of tuberculosis properly include not only those which relate to the transmission of the disease from human beings to each other, but also those which relate to the transmission of the disease from affected animals, especially the bovine species, to human beings, through the meat and milk used as food. The Health Department of New York City, while feeling strongly that the most important source of infection is through the sputum of consumptives, yet has elaborated with great care methods for protecting the public, as far as is within its power, from infection by the meat and milk of tubercular animals. In order that a more effective control of the milk supply should be possible, an ordinance was passed in 1895 forbidding the sale of milk within the city without a permit from the Health Department, and requiring that all waggons used for transportation or delivery of milk should likewise have waggon permits. Before these permits are issued the holder of the permit must furnish information as to the source from which the milk is obtained, the number of animals, the character of the food supply, and the sanitary conditions surrounding the dairy. Special regulations have been established as to the conditions for the sale of milk, and permits may be revoked at any time by the Health Board, where evidence exists that the regulations have not been strictly complied with. All milch cows in New York City (about 3,000 in number) are now being subjected to the tuberculin test, under the supervision of the Health Department, and animals found to be diseased are killed. It is proposed, as soon as this work is completed in New York City, to require similar tests to be applied to all cows whose milk is sent to New York City. There also exists a careful inspection of animals slaughtered for food, and of all meat sent into the city, and the carcasses of these found to be tubercular are destroyed.

Most beneficial effects have already resulted from the various