

Medical Matters.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.



At the Munich meeting of the Tuberculosis Commission held under the auspices of the German Naturforscher und Aerzte-Versammlung, Italo-Tonta, of Milan, summarised in an admirable way the regulations which should be established by the authorities for the prevention of tuberculosis.

These regulations are so concisely and clearly stated that they might well be embodied in a tract and scattered broadcast through the world. They are as follows:—

1. The periodic disinfection of all localities much frequented by the public, especially rooms in which many individuals congregate, such as schools, society rooms, churches, cafés, restaurants, hotels, orphanages, barracks, libraries, convents, hospitals, dispensaries, stores, tramway and railway cars, and cabs.
2. The prohibition of spitting on the floors in rooms and public conveyances, the placing of cuspidors in parks and other public places, and in vehicles of transportation.
3. The establishment of special playgrounds for children in order to avoid their playing in localities which phthical patients might visit.
4. The disinfection and whitewashing of rooms where a case of phthisis or a death from that disease has occurred.
5. The annual medical inspection of persons frequenting schools, academies, offices, factories, etc. Any cases found should be reported to the authorities.
6. The establishment of people's sanatoriums.
7. The hygienic instruction of the tuberculous, so that they may be able to protect themselves and those coming in contact with them.
8. The isolation of the phthical cases in military and general hospitals—if possible, the erection of separate pavilions.
9. The prohibition of the bathing of the tuberculous with healthy persons; the establishment of separate bath-houses for the former, under medical supervision.
10. The removal of all tuberculous individuals from the schools and their transfer to colonies in the country, where they may be treated.

11. The formation of committees with the object of sending the children of poor persons that are suffering with tuberculosis, or that have died of that disease, to the country in order to remove them from the infected houses. The children of rich families should also be removed from their homes for a certain length of time.

12. The improvement of the hygienic and dietetic conditions of the poorer classes by the erection of public kitchens, wayfarers' lodges, bath-houses, etc.

13. Philanthropists should make it their object to improve the nutrition and hygiene of individuals in poor families in which tuberculosis has occurred.

13 (a) The linen of tuberculous persons must be disinfected before being brought into contact with the linen of others.

14. The marriage of very young persons whose appearance suggests that they are inclined to tuberculosis should be opposed. Persons in whose sputum bacilli are present should be prohibited from marrying.

15. The compulsory periodic examination of domestic animals which might become tuberculous.

16. The monthly inspection of stables, supervision of the hygiene of the kitchen, of milking and milk vessels; scrupulous care in creameries.

17. The supervision of markets and abattoirs.

17 (a) The erection of stations at the borders of countries for the inspection of imported animals.

19. Strict regulations regarding the products of factories.

19. The giving of weekly lessons in hygiene at all public schools.

20. Each child at school must have its own drinking cup and its own towel. School children should not kiss each other.

21. Instructions to second hand dealers in books, clothing, etc., to have their wares disinfected. Disinfection of library books, as well as of objects that serve for school or general use, must also be performed at certain intervals."

It may not be possible to carry out all the suggestions contained herein, but they form a very excellent guide for modern sanitary efforts. "Who aimeth at the sky hits higher far than he who means a tree," and if we have high ideals we shall more nearly approach perfection than if we are content with a low standard.

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