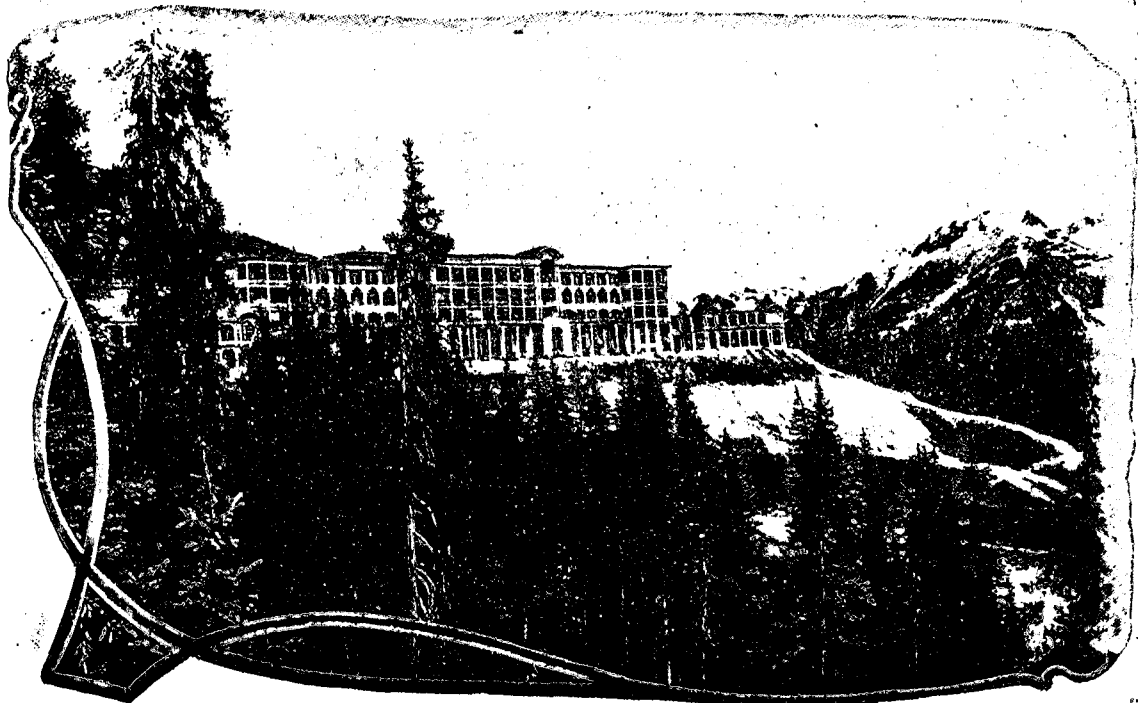


The Cry of the Consumptive.

All over the world war is being waged against the foe which in the past has annually attacked and killed so large a proportion of the population. And success has certainly attended the efforts of those who are grappling with tuberculosis, for while, not many years ago, it was regarded as practically incurable, and over the doors of hospitals for consumption the words might have been inscribed "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here," the disease is now rightly ranked amongst those which are curable, and throughout the length and breadth of the country institutions are springing up where phthical patients are

Briefly, phthisis, while traceable mainly to three causes—infection, heredity and habit—is yet, like enteric fever and typhus, essentially a filth disease. The main factor in its dissemination is impure air, and to persons predisposed by heredity, or to those whose lungs are already infected by the tubercle bacillus, impure air is little short of poison.

If, indeed, we were not so devoid of imagination, we should shrink from the idea of breathing impure air quite as much as we recoil from that of washing in dirty water, whether soiled by our own ablutions or those of others. But, while dirty water is apparent to the eye, dirty air must ordinarily be detected by



THE SCHATZALP SANATORIUM.

not only relieved but cured, from which the breadwinner in many instances is restored to his family fit and well, the mother has the joy of returning to her home to the children who need her care and counsel, the child is restored to its parents whole and sound. How have these happy results been brought about? Mainly by attention to the laws of Nature. Recent research has proved that tuberculosis has its own bacillus, and that this bacillus thrives in impure air, while an abundance of pure air is inimical to its development. Phthisis is, indeed, a disease of civilisation, and develops apace in crowded tenements, in unhealthy offices and workshops, and in ill-ventilated public buildings.

the sense of smell, or by means of the imagination. It is not, for instance, difficult to understand that air which has been inspired and expired by other persons, more especially by unhealthy persons, is contaminated and unclean, or that it may be pregnant with disease to those who are constitutionally delicate. We see, therefore, why the consumptive hospitals of the past, situated often in the heart of populous cities, kept at a high temperature, and provided even with double windows, proved congenial forcing-houses, beloved of the tubercle bacillus.

Science now is wiser, and realises that clean air is the breath of life to the phthical patient. Hence

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)