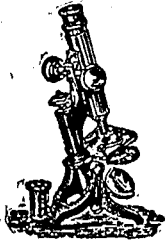


## Medical Matters.

### TUBERCULOSIS AS A DISEASE OF THE MASSES.



Miss Louise Mark commenting in *Charities and the Commons* on Dr. S. A. Knopf's Prize Essay on "Tuberculosis as a Disease of the Masses" shows how this "indefatigable warrior against the Great White Plague," urges the medical and teaching profession to unite in teaching the public that tuberculosis is "chronic, communicable, preventable and curable." In addition to having school children taught the nature of tuberculosis and cautioned against habits which tend to communicate the disease, he would have their health protected by increased attention to simple breathing exercises, a better supply of oxygen in the schoolroom, much singing and reciting out of doors, and free lunches for the under-nourished. He advocates a thorough physical examination of the child on its entering the school, daily inspection, and periodical re-examination. In addition to this work the duty of teaching the children sex physiology and hygiene should devolve upon the school physician. Dr. Knopf would have the equipment of schools include swimming tanks, commodious playgrounds, and school gardens. He would establish school sanatoria in sufficient numbers to accommodate the six thousand tuberculous school children of New York and also the teachers who contract the disease. He suggests that the Government might do efficient service by the wide distribution of pamphlets on tuberculosis, venereal diseases and alcoholism. He suggests also some changes in prison management and sanitation in order to minimise the increased danger of infection to persons in confinement; he advocates cremation as a sanitary measure; he hopes for more stringent marriage laws; he desires to see country life made more attractive so as to lessen the evils incident upon crowding in cities. In fact, the remedies he proposes for the tuberculosis evil are almost as varied as the conditions of life among the people.

### RAVAGES OF THE SLEEPING SICKNESS.

Dr. Wollaston, who has recently returned from Central Africa, gives a terrible account of the sleeping sickness region. The people are dying by thousands absolutely without medical attention. A quarter of a million have died in Uganda alone in the last few years.

## Suggestions on the Diet and Management of Children over Two Years.

Children over the age of two years will normally have passed beyond the trouble of dentition, and the milk teeth, 20 in number, will be found in healthy children to be present.

### *The Care of the Teeth.*

Before touching on the question of diet, I should like to draw your attention to a matter of cleanliness, not usually sufficiently cared for in children of tender years. I mean the daily care of the teeth. When a child is admitted to hospital, and comes from bad surroundings, invariably the teeth will be found to be partially or seriously decayed, discoloured, and offensive. This may be due to hereditary disease, recent attacks of broncho-pneumonia, or purely from ill-feeding and neglect. I knew a doctor years ago who always examined a child's teeth, when the patient was supposed to have previously suffered from "a feverish illness," and great was his pleasure on one occasion when I purposely exposed a child's teeth when he was at the bedside. To come to more recent data, it has lately been conclusively proved that the neglect of the teeth is as frequent a source of tubercular infection as the breathing of impure air. In other words, the tubercle bacilli finds his necessary soil in an uncleanly mouth, and invasion of the air passages, alimentary canal, or caries of the jaw is the result.

Well, when the child is admitted with the milk teeth decayed, one can only hope to keep them as clean as possible by the use of an antiseptic mouth wash, and wait with patience (re-establishing the health meanwhile) for the second set to appear in due course.

In a previous paper I spoke of the care of an infant's mouth with glycerine and borax, and sterilised (old) linen. I would like to suggest here that the care of the mouth and teeth should be continued during *the whole* of the child's life, until the habit is one that the child can adopt for himself, with the aid of a tooth-brush, and one of the numerous preparations, which may be selected by a responsible person. Meanwhile, the nurse may keep the young child's mouth healthy, in the way already mentioned, or with the aid of *dressing* forceps kept for the purpose, absorbent wool, carefully caught between the blades and wound round the point, and one of the common antiseptic lotions or preparations. If the gums are inclined to bleed, glycerine and Hazeline may be used with advantage; if not, boracic 1 in 60, 10 ozs. to salt  $\frac{1}{2}$  drachm is a

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