

Several weeks after the doctor at this dispensary called a visiting nurse and gave her the name and address of the patient. The visiting nurse looked up the case. She found the man bed-ridden. The bedding, towels, and body clothing (reeking with expectoration) were being taken to a well-known laundry, and the several sets of workers who handled it had no knowledge of the infectious nature of the clothing. The milk bottles, dozens of them in the sink, were also reeking with the sputa, and these were returned through the hands of two sets of workmen to the milk station near by, they, also, not knowing the nature of the disease. The man died in a few days. When the man left the tuberculosis clinic, had he been followed to his living place and nursed and cared for, it is fair to suppose that many people would have been spared at least exposure to disease.

A teacher in a large city school appealed to a visiting nurse in behalf of a little boy of eleven years, who was pale and listless. She was told to advise the boy to go every day after school to the playground or the small park near by, and be out as much as possible. She said he was there as often as it was open. She was asked if she knew anything about the boy's home. She replied that she did not, excepting that he said his father was sick. The nurse offered to see the family, and this is what she found: The father in the last stages of consumption, in a dark, windowless room. This boy was sleeping with him. The father had gone once, many weeks before, to a tuberculosis dispensary, and there had been given up because a hopeless case. Playgrounds and breathing spaces may fortify listless children against the ravages of this disease, and no one gainsays that they are a big preventive measure, but it needs no argument that this little chap had a pretty uneven chance with the odds in favour of the dark bedroom and the father in the last stages of the disease.

When once we find the hopelessly incurable case, let us bribe him in every way possible, as we would a child with the longest stick of candy possible. Coddle and pet and win him, as we coddle and pet our lepers. Then we shall have no unteachable consumptive, and we shall give less concern to enforced rules for preventing contagion. Our lepers are coddled and looked after, not only because they have our sympathy, but because of the important protection to the community.

Mystory is told in a crude and unfinished way, but I am not without followers in my belief, that we will do well to give more attention the world over to the advanced consumptive,

and, in the meantime, while the magnificent groups of scientists from every nation under the sun give their labour and study to the cure of this great scourge, we, as the field workers, will do our part in its prevention by a more humane and closer supervision of the advanced case.

### Progress of State Registration.

Mr. J. A. Coutts, M.B., F.R.C.P., Representative on the Central Hospital Council for London of the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, contributes a lengthy letter to the *British Medical Journal* of the 12th inst., on the subject of State Registration of Nurses, in which he contends that "State registration is only desired by a minority of the medical profession, and is certainly opposed to the wishes of a very large majority of the nurses themselves." In connection with the first assertion we may remind our readers that the best means of ascertaining the opinion of the medical profession is through the British Medical Association, which is representative of the views of medical practitioners throughout the United Kingdom, and that this Association has, on three occasions, passed Resolutions in favour of the principle of State Registration of Nurses, the last resolution being carried at the Annual Representative Meeting of the Association in 1906 by 90 votes to 3. Similarly, the opinion of nurses is ascertainable by consulting the views of the self-governing Societies of nurses, and, judged by this test, the same result is arrived at in the case of the nurses, as in the case of the medical profession. Indeed, the majority of such societies have appointed delegates to represent them on the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and are actively supporting its propaganda.

Miss van Lanschot Hubrecht writes from Holland:—"There is just a tiny bit of news about the progress of State Registration in Holland, and I should like to make use of your paper to communicate it to the friends of our common cause.

"The first thing I have to tell you is that the Board of Health, to whom our Petition was sent, decided, after hearing our President, Mrs. Aletrino, defend our Petition very ably against one of the members of the Bond voor Ziekverpleging, to institute an inquiry as to the present condition of training in the different training schools. Both witnesses were invited to attend before the Board of Health as experts. A long list of questions bearing upon the preliminary training, the theoretical and practi-

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