

return to the Dispensary every two months to report on his or her condition.

At the expiration of nine months after the treatment the patient's condition of immunity to tuberculosis is tested with injections of "old tuberculin" (*i.e.*, the tuberculin originally introduced by Professor Koch as distinguished from the modified preparations introduced more recently). All patients attending the Tuberculosis Dispensary are provided with postcards on which to send any change of address.

Expenditure.—The Tuberculin Injections for the full course of treatment cost 25s. per patient. The Dispensary costs £600 per annum. The cost to the ratepayers is equal to a farthing rate.

Drawbacks.—(1) Many of the patients, who chiefly come from very poor homes, are not able to get the liberal and wholesome diet which is so necessary to make the treatment a success.

(2) The advanced cases of phthisis cannot be treated at a public dispensary where 120 cases in the early stages of phthisis are being treated every week. Certainly these advanced cases can be treated in the Leicester Poor Law Infirmary, but it is found they will only stay for a limited time, and when they find no great improvement is made they return to their own homes to die. The most encouraging part of the Tuberculosis Dispensary work is that which deals with the contacts. Those persons who have only just become infected with the tubercle bacillus through contact with an advanced case of tuberculosis which has not been properly isolated, or where proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection have not been taken. If these contacts are put under treatment at once, and can have all that is necessary for the success of the treatment—*viz.*, good food and fresh air—there is every hope that they may be eventually cured. One great advantage of the tuberculin treatment is that patients can continue to earn their livelihood.

The Municipal Authorities of Leicester have also under their control a very up-to-date sanatorium, which has 30 beds for tuberculous patients. Here the treatment is chiefly educative, for, as the memorandum of the Medical Officer of the L.G.B. says, "Instruction of the tuberculosis patient is essential for the prevention of tuberculosis. Pulmonary tuberculosis, being a disease of protracted duration, the institutional or domestic isolation of patients during the whole course of the disease is impracticable. . . . The ideal to be aimed at is that where the patient lives and works his power of infectivity shall be inoperative. This ideal is not likely to be realized unless specific

instructions are given in such a way that they will become effective in the patient's life. Of the means to this end, temporary abode in a sanatorium is probably the most effective. The habits of life thus initiated can be maintained by continued watchfulness and care under a private practitioner or in connection with a Tuberculosis Dispensary, and by the Home Visiting of a competent and sympathetic health visitor or nurse."

Sputum bottles of blue glass with rubber stopper are supplied at the Town Hall, on application, free of charge. A great many tuberculosis patients use these bottles, but a large number of the very advanced cases do not use them, simply because during a fit of coughing the patient is far too exhausted to pull out the stopper, and then again the mouth of the bottle is too small to always catch the sputum.

LOCAL CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

The leaders in this philanthropic work are (a) the Leicester District Nursing Association, (b) the Leicester Guild of the Crippled. The District Nursing Association is now working in co-operation with the Sanitary Committee of the Borough, a monthly report being sent to the M.O.H. of any consumptive patients that have been nursed, and the Sanitary Committee, in return for this, make an annual grant of £25 to the Association.

The Assistant Medical Officer of Health sends to the Superintendent of the District Nurses' Home any cases of suspected tuberculosis that he wants to be under observation. It is also frequently necessary for a district nurse to dress cases of lupus that are under the Tuberculosis Dispensary. The District Nurses also leave printed cards of instruction to tuberculosis patients on the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. These cards are supplied by the Municipal Health Department of Leicester.

(In addition the same work in connection with tuberculosis patients which is being done by trained district nurses throughout England is being carried on.)

The Leicester Guild of the Crippled has under its care 330 Leicester cripples—many suffering from tuberculosis in some form or other. Without this Guild many patients suffering from tuberculosis would be unable to have that most powerful agency towards their cure or alleviation—the open-air treatment. The Guild enables them to get this by supplying them with spinal carriages, bath-chairs, and crutches. Those now supplied number 60 spinal carriages, 98 bath-chairs, and 100 pairs of crutches.

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