

## PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

### HOME CARE OF CONSUMPTIVES.\*

The home care of consumptives is a question of very urgent importance, for a large number of phthisical cases must, of necessity, be treated at home, and the conditions under which such treatment is carried out are a very large factor in the ultimate result. A book on this subject therefore, by Mr. Roy L. French, M.A., former Secretary of the Kentucky Tuberculosis Commission, is of great interest. The author is a social worker, who has been engaged both in educational and executive work in the campaign against tuberculosis. The book is primarily written, from the point of view of the social worker, for patients, tuberculosis workers, visiting nurses, teachers, ministers, and clubs interested in the health problems of their localities, and also in the hope that those doctors who realise most keenly the necessity of the patient's intelligent co-operation in the details of treatment will place the book in the hands of the family.

The first message of the book is *Hope*. No longer when a doctor pronounces a case to be consumption is it equivalent to pronouncing the death warrant. We read, "Nature fights steadily with you and not against you. Almost everyone is

at some time infected with tuberculosis. Most of us never know that we have been infected because the germs are quietly killed or walled up in the body. It is only when a particularly severe infection occurs, or when we are repeatedly infected while in a run-down condition that an active tuberculosis process develops. When we

are in poor physical condition as a result of overwork, loss of sleep, lack of proper food, worry, vicious habit, or an attack of some other disease, then the germs of tuberculosis previously implanted in the body get their opportunity to develop."

"Some years ago," we read, "people talked about 'curing' tuberculosis. Now we speak of 'arresting' the disease. Tuberculosis, a chronic disease, runs over a long period. In practically all cases of improvement the symptoms will almost wholly disappear, and the patient

will feel reasonably well although the infection still lingers in the body." A consumptive may become well enough to work without being physically healed. The important thing is that he should strictly follow out the rules laid down by his doctor. He "must bring to his task the enthusiasm and concentration displayed by the average American in playing base ball or making a fortune. Nature lays down the laws of the game. If you follow the rules, and play hard and courageously, you have a good chance to win. If you break the rules, you are sure to lose."

What is tuberculosis? The chapter on "The soil and the seed" explains this intelligibly to the average person. "Burn or boil some kernels (or seed) of wheat, or cover them with strong acids and their life is destroyed. Put them in a suitable granary and life

is preserved, though they will not grow and produce a crop of their own kind. Plant them in fertile soil and give them sunshine, warmth and moisture and they will grow. An analogy is then drawn between the growth of the germs of tuberculosis and the kernels of wheat, and the principal symptoms of tuberculosis are detailed, of the lungs (phthisis), of the glands (scrofula), and of the bones and joints, the methods of infection and development, also the conditions



A TEMPORARY PORCH, WELL BUILT, NOT TOO EXPENSIVE AND IN GOOD TASTE.

\* Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C. 5s. net.

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