

TUBERCULOSIS BY INFECTION

ANY TRANSMISSION BY HEREDITY IS DOUBTFUL.

Interesting Results of Special Investigations in Germany—Disease Most Frequent and Oftener Fatal Among the Poor, Especially the Children—Claimed That Great Majority of Cases Are Due to Infection.

An interesting account of his observations in several hundred cases of tuberculosis in the Medical University Polyclinic of Marburg is contributed by Dr. E. Schwartzkopf to the "Deutsche Archiv fuer Klinische Medizin (Leipzig).

Two other physicians had found that most of the cases of tuberculosis in the various houses of Marburg could be traced to infection.

Hereditary influence or a special predisposition to the disease could not explain why healthy persons should contract it after living in certain houses, nor could it account for the great frequency of tuberculosis among the children in these houses.

But it was also noted how tuberculosis rages in certain families, and it remained an open question whether heredity and predisposition might not play an important role in the development of the disease in individual cases. In the hospital, closer observations could be made on patients and more complete information obtained concerning the history of cases than would be possible outside.

From observations made in this way, the writer states that "among the women in the hospital, 61 per cent of those affected with tuberculosis had unquestionably been exposed to infection, while among those who did not have tuberculosis, only 24 per cent had been exposed to infection. Almost any one may chance to take a colony of the bacilli into his system, but the blood is naturally resistant to disease germs, and, usually, repeated infection is necessary before a case of lung tuberculosis will develop.

"The danger of contracting tuberculosis increases with the number of patients in the neighborhood, and with the duration of the exposure. A case of infection in childhood which becomes real lung tuberculosis by the thirteenth year is rarely cured, and the chance of recovery is less if renewed infection takes place.

"After the age of 14 years, a person becomes more susceptible to the disease, and the susceptibility becomes constantly greater up to the age of 40. There is no danger to the community from patients suffering with tuberculosis if proper precautions are taken in disposing of the discharges from the lungs. As for inheritance of the disease, heredity has not the least influence in the origin of tuberculosis of the lungs. That depends upon infection."

Real Causes of Infection.

Among the cases that came under observation, there were fewer patients whose parents had had tuberculosis than those whose parents had not been affected. The danger from tuberculosis parents does not seem to lie in an innate tendency to develop the disease, but in the great exposure to infection by living with such parents, and, in that case, there is more danger from the mother than from the father, because she is more closely associated with the family. The question is not whether any one in the family has died of tuberculosis, but whether the patient has lived with the rest of the family. Many observers agree that from six months to a year and a half may elapse between the time of infection and the appearance of unmistakable symptoms of the disease, but there is a possibility that the latent period is much longer.

It cannot be said that a case of tuberculosis always results when the bacilli are taken into the body, for we know that—among the poorer classes, at least—almost every one over 18 years of age harbors a colony of tuberculosis bacilli. Most of the tubercular changes remain latent, and the disease becomes manifest only in the minority of cases; but a person whose system has been infected with tuberculosis from childhood, although the disease may have remained latent, is much more susceptible to it if exposed later in life.

The very frequent occurrence of tuberculosis among the children of the poorer classes was shown by post mortem examination of the patients in the hospitals. Seventeen per cent of all such examinations for children from 1 to 5 years of age showed tuberculous changes, and 33 per cent of those from 5 to 14 years of age.

DECLINING RIVER TRAFFIC.

Railroads Have Relegated Old Boats to the Rear.

The best days of the Mississippi river traffic are long since past, and the scenes that once endeared that stream have apparently gone never to return.

The best year for steamboat business on Mississippi is said to have been the one immediately before the outbreak of the Civil War, says Mr. Chateron in the World today. During that conflict, until the North gained control of the river, commercial boating below the mouth of the Ohio was broken up entirely.

On the Missouri a new source of business sprang up in the early years of the war by the discovery of gold at the headwaters of that stream. Then began that most remarkable episode in the history of river navigation, the sending of cargoes from St. Louis to the base of the Rocky mountains, more than 2000 miles dis-

tant and half a mile vertically upward.

Long before the steamboat business on the Mississippi and its tributaries had reached its maximum the forces which were to accomplish its ruin had begun to operate.

The beginning of practical railroading followed many years after that of steamboating, but when it once got well under way its progress and development rapidly outstripped those of its older rivals.

Here was a steam engine that could go with its load anywhere. It did not have to follow water courses. It could climb mountains, if they were in its way. It could serve the inland town as well as the river port. Its speed was four times or more that of the steamboat.

It was not put out of commission by the winters but served the public the year round. Clearly the steamboat stood little show in its struggle with a rival like this.

For many years, from one cause and another, the boats held their own but finally the railroads got the upper hand, and their vast development in the 25 years following the Civil War practically drove the steamboat business from the rivers.

The commercial interests of the country have always looked with regret upon the disappearance of the steamboat. There is a deep-rooted conviction that our rivers have some value in the commercial economy of the country, as regulators of freight rates, if nothing more, and there has been a strenuous effort to maintain active navigation. There is a hopeful belief that the future will see the rivers again teeming with boats, as they do in Russia, Austria and France; but the logic of statistics is against it.

FENCED OUT TRUST

STANDARD OIL HAS BEEN OUTCLASSED IN RUSSIA.

Other Great Monied Powers Exerted Themselves to Discredit the Great American Monopoly With the Russian Government, and It Has Never Gained a Foothold in That Country—Shrewd Move Against Rockefeller.

It may be interesting to know that within Russia's domain the Standard Oil Company is meeting with some of the most serious opposition of its long life of plunder, says George Weise, in the July Success.

This giant trust supplies over 90 per cent of the foreign demand for oil. It has not competed with the large oil interests of Russia, which are controlled by the Rothschilds and the Noble brothers, but it has never overpowered them. This is due to the Russian laws regulating foreign trade interests. The Standard Oil Company controls the export price everywhere in the world except within the limits of Russian territory, where competition has not been stifled.

Russia is just as rich in petroleum products as is the United States, and but for the power of the Standard Oil Company they would be supplied to America by Russian producers. Russia protects her oil industry by a 200 per cent tariff; the United States puts oil on the free list.

The czar is not responsible for this state of affairs. The power of the Rothschilds carried it into effect. These astute financiers pictured to the bureaucracy the infinite horror of an American trust slowly eating its way into the very center of public recognition by supplying a staple commodity at a fluctuating price. The Rothschilds told the bureaucrats that if the Standard Oil Company should become as powerful in Russia as in America, it would only add to the ever-burning fires of internal mistrust and rebellion in one way or another.

For that reason the Russian government created the high tariff and permitted the Rothschilds and the Nobel brothers to almost monopolize the oil industry.

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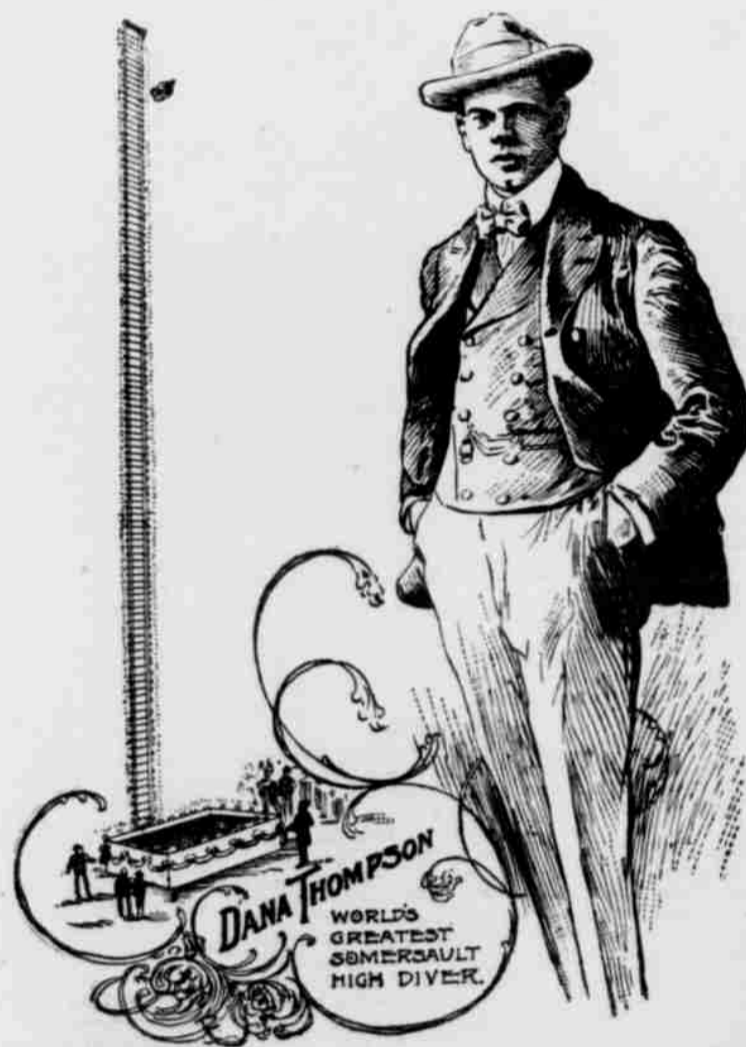
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