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Tuberculosis.

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Tuberculosis is daily increasing,—a fact which nobody can deny. Ask any Practitioner in medicine and he will unhesitatingly say that at least forty per cent of his cases are tubercular, as also that T. B. cases are daily multiplying. The methods of detection, examination, and treatment are fast improving,—but notwithstanding all the scientific steps and processes in the way of preventing and curing the terrible disease, it is a plain fact, it is a stern truth to say that it is going on spreading and spreading, even into the far off villages, where there are hardly any sins and excesses as in the people living in towns. In every mind a question is bound to arise—why it is so? Why should it be so? If the cause is found out, there will be practically no difficulty in arresting the progress of the fell malady which has been eating into the very vitals of our society, taking away its toll in hundreds, nay, in thousands, year to year. From the official statistics it is found that Bengal has been paying the penalty on this score by far heavier than any other provinces in India.

Various reasons are put forward by thoughtful Medical men, to have been at the base, but we are sorry to note that most of them are only superficial, too superficial to be paid any heed to. Want of proper food, want of proper clothing, living in ill-ventilated rooms, and in small huts, bad drainage &c., &c., are generally considered to be the cause; these are of course in many cases so many *exciting* causes, and that only in the poorer and lower stratum of the society; but what of the cases cropping up in families of

affluent circumstances and in those that live and have all along been living in villages, where there can be no question of ill ventilation, bad drainage or privation? No, the reason lies deeper.

An *exciting* cause is not a *true* cause. The true cause lies hidden within an individual in the form of *susceptibility*. Unless a man is susceptible, no amount of exciting cause can affect him and make him ill. This susceptibility is mainly responsible for the disease manifestation, and the exciting cause only helps it. When we find a man with tubercular symptoms properly manifested in him, it is sure that he became, by some reason or other, peculiarly susceptible to the disease,—and the susceptibility that was dormantly dwelling in him, had been waiting for the exciting cause to supply the facilities. As a seed germinates and grows into a plant with the help of air, light, wind, water, sun-shine, &c., so the innate tendency or the susceptibility manifests itself into a disease-manifestation with the help of an exciting cause. Now, the question arises, and an important question it is;—how does this susceptibility come into being?

Heredity is a most fruitful source of a disease tendency. It is always seen that T. B. parents transfer the disease in them to their children in seed-form, which can very easily develop into a full-grown disease,—provided the exciting circumstances are favourable. The manifestation may be different in different individuals, as also in different set of human organs, but the intrinsic nature, viz., the *consumptive* and *non-healing* character with a death-ward tendency must be there. In a certain family, the father having died of lung-phthisis at the age of 36 or 37, only the male branch contracted the consumptive tendency, the female line got exempted. Out of 5 members of the male line, only three died of lung-phthisis, one of abdominal T. B. and the 5th slowly but steadily wasted and wasted away. The member who finally died of abdominal T. B. had suffered from

insanity for more than 3 years, off and on, and the brain disease turned into the final manifestation which brought his death.

Tubercular parents necessarily lend the T. B. susceptibilities to their children, but it has also been observed that acute Syphilis, acquired and suppressed, in the father, develops into lung-phthisis in the son; though Syphilis acquired and suppressed does not so develop in the acquirer's own system. The reason is that a perfect combination of Syphilis with Psora is only possible when both the miasms pass from one generation to another. When one miasm mixes up with another in a man's own life, the admixture is not so complete as to give rise to such a dangerous ultimate, but when they course through heredity, they appear, as if, to fuse up together and are capable enough to set in a death-dealing process, as furious in the onset as fatal in the end.

Ordinary people are generally very apt to ascribe to excesses, committed by the T. B. patients during their younger days, as a fruitful source of the disease or the tendency but philosophically speaking, that cannot be said to be the *real* cause or the *real* source,—that is also an *exciting* cause,—an intermediate link in the chain from the miasm to the ultimate. A man cannot commit excesses, unless he is miasmatic, and if he is miasmatic, he is *bound* to commit excesses. He does so, because he has already lost the power of control over his sensual promptings. A healthy man can think in a natural way and can properly curb his passions. So that a man is miasmatic before he oversteps the natural limit and commits excesses.

When we consider these things a bit seriously, we do not fail to realise that the every day admonitions and instructions that we come across in the columns of newspapers and hear at the platforms, are of not much value. The real plague-spot is far elsewhere. Unless a man's moral standard in life is pure and natural, unless a man obeys, strictly obeys, the Law, no amount of pious intention will

keep him healthy. Health is a man's *acquisition*, and nobody can give it to him.

By far the most potent cause of T. B. manifestations lies in the bad, and especially,—the *suppressive* mode of treatment under the Allopathic system of Medicine. In an evil hour, the Injection form of treatment was introduced into the country. It is creating a havoc in the society. Apart from the harm that it does owing to the introduction of animal serum into the human organism, it is a most powerful method of suppression. It is a triple-edged sword. It brings in its train lots of inveterate skin diseases, it enfeebles the heart, and far more dangerous diseases are brought in place of less harmful ones. The injurious effects are daily observed by medical men and lay people, but it is most unfortunate that the worthy advocates persist in its use inspite of the harm it does. They have created among the lay public a taste for it, the method being so tritely easy, needing nothing except a needle and a bit of serum. This special mode of suppression is mostly responsible for the heavy percentage of T. B. cases, as has been observed by many. I have observed among the weaklings that are at first found to be suffering from simple malarious fever, slowly but steadily turn victims to consumptive diseases, by virtue of frequent injections of quinine and antimony. It is high time that the Medical Department should take note. Many of our people have come to realise the baneful and dangerous character of Injection treatment, but a sort of inertia acts here as everywhere, and the method is going merrily on. What a pity again, that many so called followers of Hahnemann have taken to Injection; they take it as a form of Homœopathy! What a joke! Can tom-foolery go further?

In order to keep off diseases, we are to lead a simple life under the strict obedience to Law & Truth. Law is Truth & Truth is Law. When we overstep Laws of Nature and make ourselves quite unfit to live and help her creation,—Nature wants to clear us off the face of the universe,—Consumption,

Tuberculosis, and the like being her best weapons for the purpose. She won't allow us to pollute her creation, and so the Law of Preservation is requisitioned. Creation and destruction are the opposite faces of the same coin.

ORIGIN OF SUSCEPTIBILITY

I still maintain that our conceptions of disease are vague. We are always tending to get away from the law which is the foundation of our method, and from everything that the law implies.

First, the law deals with action and reaction alone. This in itself rules out the material except so far as the material is a conductor, vessel or instrument through which the force acts. It implies Newton's third law, that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Therein lies the danger of the so-called physical methods in therapy. How can we measure the force of the reaction in advance? How can we know how much stimulation to apply in the first place? If we are still at sea regarding potency how can we estimate the effects of cruder methods?

It seems to me that in the dynamic state with a certain amount of potential the reaction is greater than the original stimulus. The matter of potential and its factors are of more concern than even the law itself, for they are the conditions under which the law acts. If it be true that energy cannot be destroyed we may cease to worry about the energy itself and look to those factors which modify its action.

What we know as impaired or reduced vitality is not a diminution of the strength of the force but a leaking away of it. Life may be compared to a fully charged storage battery (a simile better than that of an engine, I think). This fully charged storage battery has a certain potential. If all the wiring from this battery is well connected and insulated the proper function of the battery results, but if there is a short circuit, function is impaired although the potential and actual strength of the battery is normal. Under proper conditions the strength and potential of the battery may be restored.—D. PULFORD.