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## THE WAR AGAINST CONSUMPTION.

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Sir W. Osler on Defects in Practice.

The value of the sanatorium in the cure or mitigation of tuberculosis and in the education of its patients to follow the best rule of life at home was strongly maintained by speakers at yesterday's sittings of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption. Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, was the chief speaker of the morning.

SIR RICHARD DOUGLAS POWELL, Chairman of the Executive Committee, who presided in the morning, said that while sanitary education and treatment, and the improvement of conditions of living and housing were diminishing the tuberculous population, it might be that acquired and hereditary immunity had long been lessening proclivity to the disease in civilized communities.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER said that the public, thanks to this association and to the Press, were becoming more and more alive to the necessity of dealing with this insidious disease in its early stages. Doctors also needed education. Like the rest of men, they had many sins, and one was carelessness in examination. How many doctors in cases of cough made a practice of always carefully stripping and examining the chest? This carelessness was especially prevalent in that most vicious type of practice which was about to be foisted on us; contract practice as a rule was bad practice. (~~Hear, hear~~). Pleading for common-sense treatment, he said that two years ago a young woman from "over the herring pond" was brought to him, and as the tuberculous signs were of the slightest he simply prescribed open air, golf, and generally rational life. The mother, however, did not like this "Go, wash in Jordan," and these two years had been spent on the Continent under tuberculin treatment. The patient had stood it wonderfully; she could not have been better if she had not had the treatment. (~~Laughter~~). The great majority of people in that room probably had somewhere a little focus of the disease, but were saved by the natural capacity of healing.

Dispensaries and Hospitals.

Probably not 10 per cent of the tuberculous, even under the new regulations, could be treated in sanatoriums, so our energies should be most largely devoted to elaborating and perfecting home treatment. The tuberculosis dispensary should not be independent of the general hospital, where a special tuberculosis department could easily be arranged. For one thing, the essential laboratory facilities were greatest at a hospital. He dreaded the growth of a group of men whose whole knowledge and life were in the tuberculosis dispensary; they necessarily became narrow. Even the general physician tended to get into a narrow rut. (~~Hear, hear~~). If anyone wanted to be encouraged, and to feel that the world was getting better, let him visit a sanatorium; and if he was not satisfied of its value he ought to have tuberculosis himself. (~~Laughter~~). One thing still lacking was a specific which would destroy the germ without damaging its host, though tuberculin, when properly used in suitable cases, had undoubted efficacy.

(further speeches by Dr. Arthur Latham, Dr. Jane Walker, Dr. Marcus Paterson, &c., &c.)