7. That in all doubtful cases the therapeutic test should be applied, and a course of mixed treatment with mercury and iodide instituted for some time.

Professor Clifford Allbutt has recently advised us to pay less attention to words and more to things, and we shall do well to bear this in mind in dealing with the subject of syphilis and tuberculosis.

CIVILIZATION AND TUBERCULOSIS.

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THE tubercle bacillus is an index by inversion of the real progress of the race. By it the claim of civilization to dominate human life may fairly be judged. Tuberculosis will decrease with the substantial advance of civilization, and this disease will as surely increase as civilization retrogrades. Is this statement much too broad? is it untenable? Consider, then:

There is no phase of life which tuberculosis does not touch—nay, upon which it does not press with a most grievous, heavy hand. It claims, between infancy and old age, every seventh, and between adolescence and maturity every third or fourth, life—in some of our communities every other life. Every other adult negro succumbs to it.

Society's "submerged strata," which cannot free themselves from the grip of pestilent environment—the darkness, wretchedness, and starvation upon which the saprophytic bacillus propagates its teeming billions—yield victims far in excess of those claimed by all other infections put together.

Nor are the rich, in fancied security, any freer from the danger than were the gallants and the gentle ladies in Poe's dreadful tale, who thought by isolating themselves to escape the Black Death. For the beautiful laces and garments worn by the well-to-do and the pretty things worn by their children, and often got at remarkably low prices (for is he not a fool who does not buy a thing as cheaply as he can?) are like as not worked at and bent over and coughed upon from dawn until midnight by sweat-shop consumptives. Thus much oftener than we imagine does the poverty of Lazarus make itself felt in the house of Dives.

There is scarcely a trade, or occupation, or business, or calling which does not, in varying degree, give up its quota of valuable lives. And the factory is even more productive of tuberculosis than the home

for the consumptive workman, under conditions which have up to recently prevailed, has infected his fellow-workmen more than he has the members of his own family.

In literature and the arts how many precious lives have succumbed to this veritable captain of the men of death. Consumption has ever been "death's direct door to most hard students, divines, physicians, philosophers, deep lovers, zealots in religion." Who can estimate the loss in beauty, poesy, in intellectual treasures, and in all the sweetnesses and refinements of life, which this disease has inflicted upon us? How many an inspired genius, even before his powers have matured, has suffered its most untimely visitation!

The proverb goes, "Trokner Husten-Toder Trompeter"; nor has the sword ever been nearly as voracious of human life as has been the tubercle bacillus. And such scourges as cholera, the plague, small-pox, although they have been more gruesomely picturesque in their ravages, have never been in the running with consumption.

An intensely practical spirit has come to be representative of our present-day civilization, and of this we are exceedingly vain. In the popular phrase, everything is centred in the question "Does it pay?" and whatever fails to come up to the piece of money standard is eschewed contemptuously. To understand adequately this tendency one has but to contemplate, for so long as he can endure to look upon it, the characterization of Mammon which Mr. Watts has painted. It is, then, nothing short of astonishing—the economic losses which we permit tuberculosis to inflict upon us; astonishing how our shrewdness, our business prescience, has in truth a vision which reaches no further than the essentially obtuse angle the apex of which is the end of its nose. Tuberculosis is a disease entirely preventable—and by means extraordinary for their simplicity and their comparatively little cost. Yet it occasions the United States an annual loss of at least 330,000,000 dollars. The Prussian State alone (not all Germany) has been paying it an annual tribute of 86,000,000 marks. The loss to the English people may be estimated by Hillier's computation that the institutional maintenance of 8,000 consumptives has annually cost £600,000, or £75 for the individual.

Thus, then, does this disease affect most intimately every relation in life, every aspect of civilization—the infant subsisting upon impure milk; the child studying in unhygienic schools; the adolescent contending with the conditions peculiar to those years; young men and women aspiring to matrimony; the mother, in whom lies the destinies of the race; the man who should be sturdily accomplishing the world's work. Tuberculosis is pervasively concerned with our habits and customs, with our housing conditions, the sanitation of our cities, the regulation of child labour, and innumerable other details of existence. It has to

do fundamentally with human evolution ; with human heredity, its preservation, its course in the present life, its generations to come. It provides a subject much more worthy wise and sane legislative consideration "than all the many questions that make and unmake Ministries." From whatsoever point one views this all-permeating matter, one must conclude that tuberculosis is indeed the executioner which fulfils the law of the survival of the fittest.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST CONSUMPTION.

BY NATHAN RAW,

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DURING the last few years extraordinary efforts have been made by all nations in developing measures for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. Up to a few years ago each individual State was more or less solely concerned with measures for the prevention of the disease in its own particular country. But a new era has dawned with the advent of the "Central International Bureau for the Prevention of Consumption."¹ This splendid institution owes its inception to Germany, patronized by Her Majesty the Empress of Germany, and fully launched on its career by some of the greatest of German savants. It was bound from the beginning to have a mighty influence for good. The Minister of the Interior associated himself with the work, and the first meeting of the new international association was held in Berlin in the year 1902, under the presidency of Count Posadowsky, the Minister of the Interior. The late Professor Brouardel was elected unanimously the first president, an office which he worthily filled until his untimely death last year, when he was succeeded in that high office by M. Léon Bourgeois, until recently the Minister for Foreign Affairs in France. The Board of Management for the immediate direction and control of the association was appointed, consisting of the following members : F. Althoff, Berlin ; A. Calmette, Lille ; C. Chyzer, Budapest ; F. Fränkel, Berlin ; Nathan Raw, Liverpool ; H. Roerdam, Copenhagen ; with Professor G. Pannwitz as general secretary, and Dr. Kayserling as assistant secretary. This International Committee meets from time to time in different capitals, and is responsible for the financial and other business connected with this organization.

¹ Central International Association for the Prevention of Consumption. Secretary : Professor Pannwitz, 9, Eichhornstrasse, Berlin.