her to glean facts only as a side issue, but there is much information to be gained during a nursing call, and a special note-book reserved for this material (facts on housing, eating, drinking, sleeping, working, habits, prejudices, superstitions, etc., *ad infinitum*) would soon be filled with very interesting data. This, later, might be worked into a local report of that particular Italian situation and a dozen or more such reports would be intensely interesting and very, very helpful. We must all of us confess that the Italian problem has thus far been beyond us. Now that the opportunity is offered us to do some really constructive work of inestimable benefit to both Italians and Americans, will not all the nurses respond and at once?

EL PASO'S INDIGENT TOURIST CONSUMPTIVES

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"I THINK the nurses would probably be interested in knowing how you handle indigent tourist tuberculosis patients." Such was a sentence in Miss Foley's letter to me. Need I tell you how I leaped at the word tourist? Have you ever gone trout fishing and seen the trout leap to the fly? Well, I was something like the trout. Tourist! why it expressed the whole situation here in the Southwest. Such is the consumptive and the indigent consumptive. He travels from place to place, often sent by charity, seeking that Mecca of all Meccas—a place in which to get well. Chasing everywhere, yet never settling down to "chase the cure."

During the past twenty months representatives of 15 nations have applied for free medical care in El Paso. Every state in the Union has been represented, and yet only one native-born Texan has applied for aid. Consumptives have arrived here in a dying condition, have applied to the charities, to be sent on to some other town when their condition was such that the only course to pursue was to place them in a hospital. These indigent tourist consumptives are a menace to life, for they are usually the most careless of all human beings. Something should be done to prevent this passing on, and the whole Southwest is planning to organize a league to prevent it.

It is true that our climate is ideal, but it is no place for an indigent consumptive. Nowhere in the United States is living higher, and the consumptive cannot live on fresh air and sunshine alone. One physician of much experience told me that he did not think it advisable for a

consumptive to settle here unless he had an income of \$100 per month. Quoting Dr. Robert B. Homan, one of the best known tuberculosis specialists of the Southwest and proprietor of the beautiful and well-equipped Baldwin Sanitarium: "Many patients are sent to this country practically without means, with the expectation of getting on a ranch or somewhere at a very nominal expense. There was never a greater mistake than this. Tuberculosis is a disease that must be combatted by building up the natural resistive forces of the individual, and to do this one must have the very best food, comfortable quarters, and plenty of time for rest as well as medical advice. These cost money anywhere, and the West is no exception. To obtain the best results one must be provided with sufficient means to get the things necessary for his welfare without having to worry about it.

"Some are told that they can come here and obtain light employment out of doors, and thus gain a livelihood and get the advantage of the climate at the same time. This is true in but a very limited number of cases, as there are many applicants for every position of that kind, and one should not be sent to this country with any such expectation unless arrangements for a position are perfected beforehand. None should accept even the lightest employment, at least during the first few months of their stay here, if they have the means to provide what they should have without it."

Patients are spending their last cent to reach the Southwest, and very often are shipped here by friends (?) desiring to get rid of them. This is cruel and inhuman, and the sooner all tuberculosis societies and communities understand that the Southwest will not assume their rightful burden the better it will be for the indigent consumptive. It is heart rending to see these poor, half-starved consumptives going from one place to another seeking charity and there is no relief to give.

There are no city charities in El Paso; all relief agencies are under the control of the county, and to enter the County Hospital one must have been a resident of the county six months. The indigent consumptive has become such a burden upon El Paso that the county health officer and the county judge have decided to "Vag" all indigent consumptives and give them so long to leave town. Better stay away from El Paso.

El Paso has her own burdens, and she cannot care for the paupers of other states. The county judge informed me that the county will furnish but one thing and that is free burial. This isn't cruel. It is justice to El Paso and it is justice to the indigent tuberculosis patient. Far better know conditions before he leaves for the Southwest. El Paso

does not want him and El Paso will not and cannot provide for him. There is no tuberculosis society to whom he may apply, and all relief is under the direction of the county.

Less than 25 years ago there were no tuberculosis deaths among long American residents or Mexicans, yet in 1908 104 Mexicans died against a death rate of 169 Americans. This proves that the American has introduced tuberculosis into the Southwest and is responsible for its spread. The average residence here of the consumptive (before death) is 4 years 2 months and 17 days. The average age at death is 32 years 2 months and 20 days.

The Arizona Health League issues this advice: "If your money gets low, return to your family or place of residence where you have a claim on the community, as you have better chances when well fed and cared for in a bad climate than half-starved and home-sick here." Before leaving New York I had often stated that, should I contract tuberculosis, I would go to the Southwest if I had to crawl. Not now. I have seen too many die and too much suffering. My advice to all nurses doing tuberculosis work is to keep your patients where they can be cared for. I have seen too many starving and dying in this great Southwest, and the Southwest cannot help it, for it hasn't the means to care for them.

THAT there are 12,000 tuberculous prisoners in the state, federal, and local prisons and jails of the United States, with less than 25 special institutions and hardly 800 beds for their treatment, are some of the charges made by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.

From several investigations that have been made, it is estimated that on an average about 15 per cent. of the prison population of the country is afflicted with tuberculosis. On this basis, out of the 80,000 prisoners housed in the penal institutions of continental United States at any given time, not less than 12,000 are infected with this disease. If the Philippine Islands and other insular possessions were taken into consideration, the number would be much larger.