

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL HISTORY OF PERSONS WHO DEVELOP PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN YOUNG ADULT LIFE.*

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A PAPER was read at the April meeting of the Tuberculosis Society of Scotland dealing with the school medical history of persons who develop pulmonary tuberculosis in young adult life. The results communicated were based on analysis of the school medical schedules of 97 notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and a comparative series of 97 persons of the same age and sex free from the disease, the object being to determine whether persons who ultimately develop phthisis show any differences from normal persons which might indicate the necessity for more detailed clinical examination. It was found that in respect of the prior incidence of the common infectious diseases no substantial differences could be indicated in the two groups, with the possible exception of scarlet fever, in which the ultimately tuberculous showed a greater frequency. With regard to the condition of the children found at medical inspection, very little difference in external conditions could be found, although dirty clothing, dirty heads, and nits were somewhat more frequent among the ultimately tuberculous. Clinically, the only point of differentiation was in respect of bronchial catarrh, other conditions, such as tonsils and adenoids, under-nutrition, anæmia, enlarged glands, etc., being for all practical purposes equally frequent in the two groups. In weights and heights, moreover, no substantial differentiation appeared. The authors emphasised the limited numerical basis of the inquiry, but with this reservation concluded that it was quite impossible from ordinary clinical inspection to predict with any accuracy the type of school child likely to develop tuberculosis in young adult life.

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