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978-1-107-41899-8 - A Campaign Against Consumption: A Collection of Papers
Relating to Tuberculosis

Arthur Ransome

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A CAMPAIGN AGAINST CONSUMPTION

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS RELATING
TO TUBERCULOSIS

BY

ARTHUR RANSOME, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

Hon. Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge ;
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and to the Bournemouth Hospital ;
Late Professor of Public Health to Victoria University and Examiner in
Sanitary Science and Public Health to Cambridge and Victoria Universities ;
Milroy Lecturer to Royal College of Physicians (in 1890)

“Rally the scattered causes, and the line
That nature twists, be ready to untwine.”

Religio Medici.

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TO
THE MEMORY OF MY GRANDFATHER
JOHN ATKINSON RANSOME, F.R.C.S.
WHO FIRST PROPOSED, AND MADE USE OF, ANIMAL GUT
IN THE LIGATURE OF ARTERIES
AND OF MY FATHER
JOSEPH ATKINSON RANSOME, F.R.C.S.
WHO FIRST USED CARBOLIC ACID IN THE TREATMENT
OF SEPTIC WOUNDS

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PREFACE

I HAVE been engaged in fighting against CONSUMPTION for more than 50 years, and have been urged to re-publish, in book form, some of my writings which deal with the subject from a public health point of view, and others which take a more purely scientific form.

In the present volume, therefore, are brought together a number of Papers relating to Tuberculosis. Most of them have been read before various Societies, such as the Royal Society, the Epidemiological Society, the Sanitary Institute, and the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, etc., and have appeared in their Transactions, or in Medical Journals. Others again have been separately published, but are now out of print, and, probably, out of mind.

At the present time, much attention is being given to the subject of the prevention of the disease; and the Papers are now therefore re-printed, partly as a contribution to the history of the movement, but mainly in the hope that they may still help in the furtherance of this object.

My own entrance into the campaign against consumption dates back to the year 1860, when I was able to start in Manchester and Salford a weekly Register of all new cases of certain diseases, of which Phthisis was one.

Under the direction of the local Sanitary Association, I was able to secure the willing help of about 30 contributors, and Returns of Phthisis, as well as of other diseases, were made with the greatest regularity for more than twelve years, and thus enabled the Medical Officer of Health to note any special incidence of the different diseases. They were also analysed by myself in Papers to the Social Science Congress, and to other kindred Societies.

There is good reason to believe that these "Weekly Returns" were not merely the forerunners but actual incentives to the more complete "Notification of Disease" that has been established in recent years.

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Preface

Perhaps they may be counted as contributing to the storage of facts which led to the more active "Campaign," as also may my other works on Stethometry and Prognosis in Lung Diseases, but the first of the more militant Papers, a Health Lecture on "Foul Air and Lung Disease," was published by the Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association in 1876.

In the present Series, however, it has been thought best to commence with another Health Lecture, on "Consumption, its Causes and Prevention," as this lecture deals more directly with the subject.

It was not published until 1881, just before the discovery of the Tubercle bacillus, by Koch; but it contains nothing that runs counter to his research.

In this volume then are contained 22 Papers; and they are divided into 4 Sections. In each Section, they are placed in chronological order.

The Papers in the first Section are mainly practical in character; the second deals with the conditions of infection by Tubercle; the third contains original researches; and the Papers in the fourth are for the most part statistical in character.

Owing to the similarity of the subjects in these several series of Papers there is necessarily some repetition; but I have tried to minimise this defect as much as possible by omitting several Papers, especially those dealing with the conditions of infection.

Some little repetition may indeed be of service, as it may emphasise the doctrines which seem to me to be of most importance.

I wish here to express my gratitude to various kind friends who have helped me in preparing this volume; notably to Dr Dixon for the micro-photograph facing p. 172; to Mr G. Brumell, Dr Hope, Dr Newsholme and Dr Tatham for assistance with the Charts; and to Dr Venn and Mr J. W. Sharpe for correcting the proofs. Also my grateful acknowledgements of efficient assistance in my researches are due to Professor Delépine, the late Dr Dreschfeld, Drs Childs and Foulerton, and to Mr Harold Swithenbank.

A. R.

BOURNEMOUTH,
January 1915.

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