TUBERCULOSIS
IN
NEW YORK CITY
1960

The Challenge of Tuberculosis in the Sixties

A Compilation and Review
by
Anthony M. Lowell

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AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION
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260 Park Ave. South
New York 10, N.Y.

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FOREWORD

One indispensable element in the fight against tuberculosis is a year-to-year documentation of the facts which characterize the disease as it afflicts people. Without this knowledge, intelligent planning for its suppression and eventual eradication would be impossible. It is a credit to the public health and welfare agencies that their records contain this essential information. The data presented in this book are derived mainly from these sources. The New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, a private agency sponsored and supported by citizen volunteers, has cooperated for many years with the public agencies of the city in the campaign, and the "Yearbook" is one of the contributions which we are privileged to make.

Mr. Lowell, the competent and careful statistician of the Association, has taken pains to verify the information and to assemble it in a way which will be most meaningful and useful to those who are actively conducting the campaign and to the many others who have a serious interest. It is clearly shown that the prevalence of tuberculosis varies greatly in parts of New York City, and it is self-evident that the methods of attack must be adapted to local conditions. These need to be analyzed accurately before actions can be clearly designed and efficiently carried out. The data presented here help provide a basis for plans and operations which are developed not only for the immediate future but also for the years ahead.

This report contains mostly quantitative data with respect to "cases" of and deaths from tuberculosis, an absolute necessity from the standpoint of public health. It does not reveal, except in an indirect way, the quality of the suffering and deprivation which the disease brings to afflicted people and their families. One understands this best after having some intimate experience. Compassion, so inspired, was the chief motivation for inaugurating the concerted campaign against tuberculosis and continues to be the greatest driving force. The facts provide ample warrant of the need.

J. Burns Amberson, M.D.
General Director