



TUBERCULOSIS
IN
NEW YORK CITY
1961

Remaining Seedbeds of Tuberculosis
Which Are Retarding Eradication

A Compilation and Review
by
ANTHONY M. LOWELL, M.P.H.

NEW YORK TUBERCULOSIS
AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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FOREWORD

The varying prevalence of tuberculosis reflects in a striking way the economic conditions, social patterns and organized public health defenses of communities. It has become increasingly significant in this way, now that so many other diseases related to poverty and crowding have been virtually eliminated from our country. Tuberculosis, being caused by air-borne infection, is not so clearly and strictly related since the air we breathe is shared by all and is not easily purified before we inhale it. Nevertheless, contamination with tubercle bacilli can be reduced or prevented if the source, that is, a person with active pulmonary tuberculosis, is removed from the immediate environment or is so housed and treated that the germs no longer escape from him into the air of homes or other confined and occupied spaces.

Tuberculosis, while slowly retreating, is still a formidable social enemy which takes a devastating toll of health and life, proportionately greater in New York City than in other communities. Analysis and interpretation of the facts about it are the most reliable guides for the attack against the disease. In the main, this attack is organized to discover unknown cases of tuberculosis and to provide proper treatment so that the sick persons may recover and no longer be a menace to the healthy. Most of the facts which determine the plan of attack are identified directly or by inference in this Yearbook.

The New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, which assumes responsibility for the publication of the Yearbook, takes satisfaction in the accuracy and soundness of the presentation and expresses its appreciation to Mr. Lowell for the excellence of his work.

J. Burns Amberson, M.D.
General Director