interested in the beginning of the fresh air and sanatorium treatment of tuberculosis, will find in this book the unfolding of that vitally important era. It is told in the manner, in the garb, of an absorbing story, with love and tragedy delicately woven into the pattern of the fabric. The book consists of 322 pages, and is published by Doubleday Doran & Co.

Now for the consideration of a work of a strictly scientific character. This is Goldberg’s Clinical Tuberculosis. It made its debut into the tuberculosis literature in 1935. It is published in two volumes by F. A. Davis Co. In addition to the excellent chapters by Dr. Goldberg himself, there are 33 other collaborators. All of them are men who hold im- minent positions in their respective fields. It gives the complete story of pulmonary tuberculosis from epidemiology to the most recent collapse procedures. Tuberculosis of the other organs of the body is likewise very fully and ably dealt with.

C. H. H.

BACK TO FUNDAMENTALS

WITHIN the next few weeks, three very important medical assemblies will be held in this country. The National Tuberculosis Association will meet in Los Angeles, California. The American Medical Association and American College of Chest Physicians will meet in San Francisco.

From a study of Advance notices of the programs of these meetings, one is stimulated with the knowledge insofar as tuberculosis is concerned, that the best minds still recognize the fact, that the end of tuberculosis is not “just around the corner.” A glance at the programs shows us that more and more attention is given to the importance of the private practitioner and his role in the tuberculosis problem. The stressing of case finding, especially in school surveys; the isolation of infectious cases is being emphasized more and more.

In taking stock of all the facts and truths developed down through the years, it seems now that more thought should be given to the fundamentals in the control of the disease than to re-hash the best methods of therapy. Treatment, of course, is necessary—research must go on, but the most important thing in the whole problem is prevention and control.

We have known for years that tuberculosis is a preventable disease; that in finding a case early we almost invariably effect a cure; that by the isolation of positive sputum cases, we control the spread of disease. Why not concentrate on these vital fundamentals.

First, by making and keeping the general practitioner tuberculosis-conscious. Second, by tuberculin testing of all school children, and then tracing all contacts. Third, isolate and educate all positive sputum cases. In order to carry out Nos. two and three, new laws may be required in many states. I do not believe it will be hard to have such laws put on the statute books, as our law makers have always aided in providing the necessary legislation in the control of communicable diseases.

There is little doubt in the minds of most of us that we have reached a stalemate in the reduction of mortality among the moderately advanced, and advanced cases of tuberculosis. True, many lives have been prolonged and made useful, but the ultimate cause of death in most cases has been tuberculosis. Therefore, early diagnosis is the only sure way to prevent deaths from tuberculosis. Isolation and control of all sputum positive cases is the only sure way to prevent new cases developing.

If we take stock of our accumulated knowledge, the above-named facts are apparent to all of us. The decline in the death rate during the past twenty years should not make us complacent, especially since the decline stopped rather sharply in 1937; and we still have the alarming fact that the death rate among negroes is the same today as it was among the whites twenty years ago.

Most assuredly, the education program should go on, but a more specialized program should be evolved. The program should be carried to the physician in his daily practice, and to the medical student in college. The program should be taken to our law makers where laws are inadequate, to our school boards and college presidents.

The American College of Chest Physicians, by concentrated effort, and by use of their Journal, Diseases of the Chest, can do much toward the further control of tuberculosis by continuously emphasizing the fundamentals of early diagnosis and the isolation of open cases.

C. M. H.