greatest handicap in the reduction of the death rate and eventual eradication of tuberculosis, is a shortage of hospital beds. Any attempt to control the dissemination of tuberculosis must prove ineffective so long as the unhospitalized patients continue to spread the disease in a community.

There are certain states and counties which are not using beds that are available in private sanatoria and hospitals, although their state and public sanatoria all have large waiting lists, while in other states, all available beds are used, whether private or public. Besides the fact that there is a shortage of public beds, there is a marked lethargy on the part of the medical profession and the public in certain states toward the tuberculosis control problem. Where such a lethargy exists, the Fellows of the American College of Chest Physicians can do a great service by enlisting the interest of the profession in bringing about tuberculosis control legislation. C. M. H.

THE At the present time it is essential, if not imperative, that every doctor who proposes to do creditable chest work, have a fluoroscope in his office. The X-ray films may be made and developed in some other place that is conveniently near; but the fluoroscope should be a part and parcel of the office equipment; and its use a routine procedure in the office examination.

After the installation cost of the fluoroscope there is little or no maintenance expense, and it is always available at a moment’s notice. With practice, considerable proficiency may be acquired in making the fluoroscopic examination, and an extraordinary amount of lung detail can be seen. The lighting up of the apices after cough is an important observation as the failure to do so is often indicative of apical disease. The movements of the heart, diaphragm and great vessels are ideally studied under the fluoroscope. Also, the shifting of fluid levels are best observed this way. The fluoroscope in conjunction with the Mantoux test affords a most reliable method for screening out subjects in case finding surveys.

Some emphasis must be placed on the proper preparation of the eyes before engaging in making a fluoroscopic examination. If this is neglected, then a poor or mediocre examination follows; and at times becomes an empty gesture. The eyes must be thoroughly accommodated and this takes several minutes or longer in the dark room. On cloudy days, proper accommodation is more quickly obtained than on bright sunny days. Wearing goggles or dark glasses will considerably shorten the time necessary to remain in the dark room.

To repeat, if creditable chest work is to be done; then it demands the routine and the proper use of the fluoroscope. C. H. H.

TUBERCULOSIS Much progress has been made in securing tuberculosis legislation. Every state now has on its statute books, laws relating to tuberculosis. In a few states, all phases of the tuberculosis problem are covered by some form of legislation, but in many states, the laws on this subject are still meager.

Legislative activities along these lines will be required for many years, not only in order to obtain new laws for the control of tuberculosis where none have existed, but to change or amend old laws so that they will conform to scientific and sociological advancement.

Some states are handicapped because of constitutional limitation. These states will necessarily be the last to provide proper tuberculosis control laws. The reason for this is the slow process of constitutional amendments which will have to be voted by the people, before their legislature can pass laws providing more money for tuberculosis beds, maintenance of same, case finding, field work, insurance against wage loss during sickness, rehabilitation, etc.

Here again, the Fellows of the American College of Chest Physicians, can take the lead and bring about the necessary changes by working through the medical profession in their states. The state medical association in any state can convince the proper authorities on any public health problem.

The college has much to do if tuberculosis control is to be accomplished in this country by studying and instituting the Pennsylvania Plan, and making it conform to the problems which exist in any state. C. M. H.