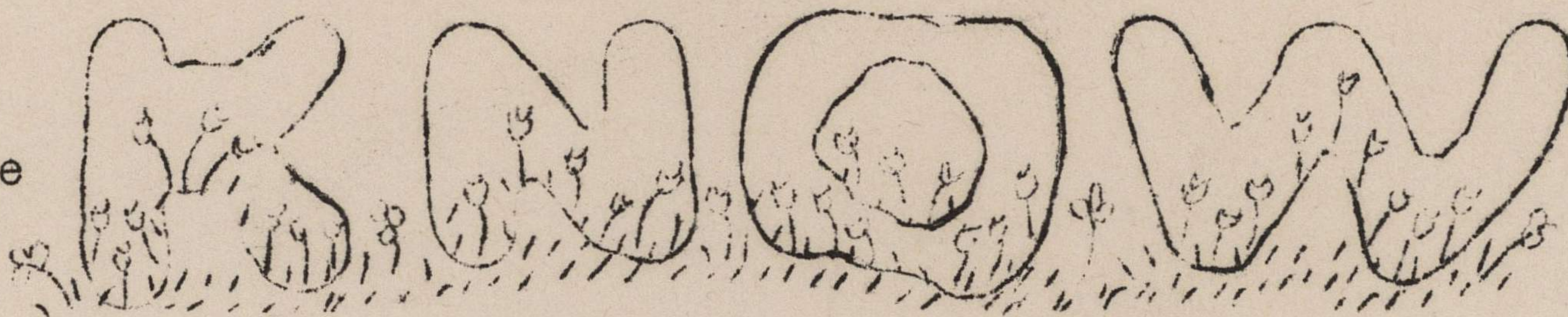


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A B O U T H E A L T H

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH UNIT, City Hall, Massachusetts Street, at 11th, functions daily from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Come in and tell us your troubles.

TUBERCULOSIS

IT is an infection caused by *Bacillus tuberculosis*, more specifically and accurately *Myobacterium tuberculosis hominis*. There are definitely different families for cattle, birds, and fish. Occasionally bovine tuberculosis attacks humankind, especially babies. This is part of the factual background for requiring so much meat and milk inspection and supervision. Around twelve percent of all human deaths are believed to be caused by tuberculosis. In the United States the rate is only about two-thirds that much.

For a little more than a generation we have been trying to do something about tuberculosis in Kansas. In 1909 the late Dr. S. C. Emley, of the medical faculty of Kansas University took a two year leave and spent it in traveling about the state with a special car (railway car) lecturing, giving demonstrations, and distributing literature about it. At about the same time the Sanatorium at Norton was founded. Within the next ten years the Tuberculosis and Health Association became active all over the state and for about twenty years has maintained a monthly tuberculosis diagnostic clinic in Lawrence. They have spent about 25,000 dollars on this clinic and associated activities and have raised about 32,000 dollars for the work in Kansas and elsewhere. Many cases have been diagnosed here and the contacts have been investigated and followed up. Several cases have been traced to their probable origins and doubtless many cases thus stopped before they got started.

This disease has been progressively and more fearingly known for several hundred years. Bunyan called it "Captain of the Men of Death". The study of it was becoming more coordinated, less superficial and more coldly scientific in the latter half of the last century when Robert Koch, in 1882 discovered the specific bacillus and did his monumental work on it and his epoch making "postulates". Since then things in this field have moved faster, with less error, and with more results. In 1900 the death rate from tuberculosis in the registration areas of the United States was 201.9 per 100,000 and in 1930 it was 71.5. It is doubtless less now despite the presence of war which always increases the number of cases and the deaths from tuberculosis.

Why don't we all get it? Most of us do. Some careful studies made in Germany on bodies of city dwellers, dead from other causes than