

kets of the world greater, far greater, than when she adopted free trade. To take taxes off of trade was well; to abolish taxes on production is better. Neither England's trade, nor the trade of any other country, will ever be really free until all taxes are removed from both production and exchange, and laid upon land values.

S. C.



## TUBERCULOSIS A PRODUCT OF MONOPOLY.

In an eloquent letter published in the New York Evening Post of December 26, Dr. John B. Huber rightly attributes the cause of tuberculosis to bad economic conditions. "It is neither a hereditary nor a family disease," he declares, "but a house disease, contracted chiefly in unhealthful tenements and workshops. . . It is a disease of the poor, of the submerged; a disease developed in sunlessness, cold, starvation, misery; in the overworked, exhausted, anxious body; in the body devitalized by previous diseases, of which alcoholism is preëminent." And he urges "the rest of civilization" to assist the doctors in making the cure possible.

What are the obstacles in the way, he asks, and points to the tariff which has made a few millionaires while reducing the masses to a poverty which cannot hope for pure food as a bulwark against disease, the overworking of women and children in factories and sweat shops, the employment of men in dangerous trades under intolerable conditions which give to some industries a consumptive death-rate above 80%. He condemns also the faith healers and purveyors of patent medicine, and sees a "ghastly inhumanity" in gauging human labor by a law of supply and demand. He does not perceive that the law of supply and demand is as much a dispensation of Providence as the circulation of the blood and that the evil resides not in the natural law, but in the ignorance of those who attempt to thwart it. He fails to see that land monopoly acts on the body politic as a clot of blood in the arterial system; and so, while condemning private charity and philanthropy and admitting that the model tenement is beyond the reach of the very poor, he can foresee a solution of the problem only through the public charity of government action in reconstructing the slums and providing sanatoria.

It is encouraging to find a doctor who appreciates the significance of tariff monopoly, and we may believe that it will not be long before he sees monopoly in its most sinister form in laws which support the claim of landlords to private owner-

ship of natural opportunities and transform the right to work into a privilege graciously accorded by some men to their fellows.

F. W. GARRISON.



## HIGH PRICES AND THE LAND.

An editorial in The New York Evening Post suggested that the present high prices of farm products make this an unusually favorable time for a movement to encourage immigrants to take up farming in this country. Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll replied to the effect that the trouble was that farm land prices have gone up faster than farm product prices; that this "effectively checked what would otherwise be a normal redistribution of population." This brought from The Post an editorial in which it took issue with Mr. Ingersoll, but not violently. "Except for the question of degree," said The Post, "Mr. Ingersoll's point is perfectly well taken. A great rise in the value of farm lands . . . has been amply verified by statistics."

How much of the increase in the farmer's profits has been absorbed by the increase in land values appears to The Post "an extremely interesting question upon which we would not venture a judgment, but that a large part is left over by way of encouragement to the user of the soil, we feel very sure."

The editorial goes on to point out the increasing attractiveness of city life as a reason for the drift from the country. Next comes a paragraph from which the following extract is taken:

"There is a vast amount of land that can be bought or rented at low prices in such States as New York or Pennsylvania or Massachusetts which could be used for truck farming, raising chickens, and so forth, and evidently of the great advance in the price of eggs, poultry and garden truck only a small portion can be taken up by the cost of the land. Further the census figures which show that average values per acre for farm lands in such States as Illinois and Iowa rose between 1900 and 1910 more than one hundred per cent also show that in New York the rise was only 32 per cent, in Massachusetts only 33 per cent, and in Pennsylvania 14 per cent."

But The Post admits that a rise in land values has been caused by a rise in farm-product prices; points out that Henry George never imagined that his system would destroy economic rent; admits that his system would have some influence in lowering agricultural rents by forcing lands now unused into use; thinks that the effect would not be