

Early Diagnosis NOW POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF 2000 YEARS OF EFFORT AND EXPERIENCE



HIPPOCRATES

400 B.C. The Greek physician, Hippocrates, describes correctly the signs and symptoms of consumption. Modern doctors no longer wait for signs and symptoms to appear before suspecting tuberculosis because usually there are no signs and symptoms when tuberculosis begins.



KOCH

1882 The German physician, Robert Koch, discovers the tuberculosis germ. For 2,000 years doctors had been in the dark as to the cause of this disease, until Koch proved it is caused by germs which can be seen with a microscope. If tuberculosis germs can be seen in your sputum, it means that you are a spreader of the disease.



AUENBRUGGER

1761 An Austrian army physician, Dr. Leopold Auenbrugger, discovers that by gentle tapping with the fingers on the chest sounds are revealed which indicate changes in the lung caused by tuberculosis and other diseases. Napoleon's physician, Dr. Corvissart, made "tapping" (percussion) popular in 1808 and ever since all physicians use it.



PIRQUET

1907 A Viennese children's specialist, Dr. Clemens von Pirquet, observes that the presence of tuberculosis germs hidden in the body can be detected by a skin test known as the tuberculin test. The French physician, Dr. Mantoux, improved Pirquet's method, making the test more reliable. Several million tuberculin tests are now given by physicians each year.



LAENNEC

1819 The French physician, Dr. René Theophile Hyacinthe Laennec, invents the stethoscope, the instrument doctors use for listening to the sounds which air makes when rushing in and out of the lung. The stethoscope is still one of our important diagnostic aids, but physicians today no longer rely on the stethoscope alone in diagnosing early tuberculosis.



ROENTGEN

1895 The German professor of physics, Wilhelm Konrad von Roentgen, discovers the X-ray. No one foresaw the possibility of using this penetrating ray to discover hidden tuberculosis. Twenty years had to pass before X-ray equipment was developed that would enable physicians to photograph the faintest shadows cast by diseased spots in sick lungs. Now the X-ray is our most important diagnostic aid.



PHYSICIANS DEPEND ON THE X-RAY FOR MAKING DIAGNOSIS EARLY

The most important recent discovery is that some people may have tuberculosis that cannot be diagnosed by any other method except by the X-ray. Tuberculosis in its early stages is often without signs and symptoms. "Tapping" and "listening," even the sputum test, may reveal nothing while attempting to discover early tuberculosis. However, a positive tuberculin test means infection and the X-ray may reveal the sick spot in the lung before slowly appearing symptoms such as fatigue, loss of weight, indigestion or a cough arouse any suspicion. The X-ray has become an essential part of a lung examination. **No chest examination for tuberculosis is complete without the X-ray.**

The X-Ray reveals Tuberculosis

