



TUBERCULOSIS 119

OPPOSITE | A dissection of a tubercular lung. From the accompanying notes: 'The lower part is solidified by greyish, tubercular infiltration, the central portion contains a large abscess and the superior part a putulous one surrounded by incipient gangrene. The central abscess is traversed by a branch of the pulmonary artery and the pleura is much thickened because of inflammation.' | ABOVE | Dissections of tubercular lungs and brains. | OVERLEAF LEFT | Some of the effects of tuberculosis in the kidneys. | OVERLEAF RIGHT | Tuberculosis in the brain.

Free Trade in Disease

He was not sick, despite the ghostly pallor of his skin, or the darting pain coursing through his veins. There are men content living, *bathing in* evil smells, tossed and turned by doctors not unlike a diseased pig on a spit. Tugging none-too-gently at shriveled blisters, until they groan and their insides creak, an obscene sound that erupts from the bottom of their souls. Akin to a tide of filth.

Sour, frothy bile rose in his throat at the thought of it, or perhaps his body truly was losing itself just like the others. A healthy man seldom had black, warty growths plaguing his upper chest, nor pus belching through his pores. Were the skin lesions abnormal too? Maybe a browse through the library would suffice.

A sharp series of three raps echo at the front entrance, though it is all for naught. After all, dead men cannot answer doors.

Analysis

For this rotation, I wanted to work around a story based on a photo, and keep it as a short story, as opposed to the beginning of something longer. My immediate thought was to write about sickness, as it is not archetypically 'dark', however can be depending on the sick person's view of their own illness.

The image used is a page from a book that discusses illnesses found in the pre-modern era, and the shocking effect they have on something as resilient as the human body. From this, I decided to write about a man who is partially in denial about being ill and believes that only sinners can develop disease. At the end I heavily imply that the man has passed, likely due to his illness.

This rotation was challenging in the sense that I had to make sure the story was compelling and make sure that it was within 150 words as well. I wish I could delve into the mindset of the character more, however I also wanted to make his negative impression of sickness clear.

Overall, I'm pleased with the outcome of my story. There are a few improvements that could be made with the pacing of the story, otherwise I believe that the intention behind why I made the story comes across clearly.