Tuberculosis and the Social Experience of Illness in American History. Sheila M. Rothman. Tuberculosis—once the cause of as many as one in five deaths in the U.S.—crossed all boundaries of class and gender, but the methods of treatment for men and women differed radically. While men were encouraged to go

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Living in the Shadow of Death: Tuberculosis and the Social Experience of Illness in American History

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out to sea or to the open country, women were expected to stay at home, surrounded by family, to anticipate a lingering death. Several women, however, chose rather to head for the drier climates of the West and build new lives on their own. But with the discovery of the tubercle bacillus in 1882, Tuberculosis was a disease, now reemerging, that killed more Americans, young or old, rich or poor, than any other disease, until well into the twentieth century. It shaped our culture, determined careers, blighted lives. Rothman writes beautifully and with great sensitivity about the human condition. It makes for compelling reading. “Living in the Shadow of Death” is mandatory reading for anyone interested in life in the United States in the 1800s and early 1900s. Genealogists and academic researchers in the humanities (especially literature and history) should put this title on their to-read list. “The good old days” really weren’t. Read more. Tuberculosis—once the cause of as many as one in five deaths in the U.S.—crossed all boundaries of class and gender, but the methods of treatment for men and women differed radically. While men were encouraged to go out to sea or to the open country, women were expected to stay at home, surrounded by family, to anticipate a lingering death. Several women, however, chose rather to head for the drier climates of the West and build new lives on their own. The letters, diaries, and journals piece together what it was like to experience Tuberculosis, and eloquently reveal the tenacity and resolve with which people faced it. (retrieved from Amazon Thu, 12 Mar 2015 17:59:26 -0400). (see all 2 descriptions).