Hygienic manuals and medical journals propagated a new discourse of domesticity and created medical authority. They penetrated the productive and reproductive spheres of society and tried to shape the behavior of the common people through medicine. Periodicals started receiving letters from the public about behavior. The doctor became an expert who can answer specific questions. In one of these letters, a certain Ahmed Effendi Fahmi poses the following dilemma:

A guy was infected with TB, and during his infection, his wife was still having an intimate relationship with him. The infected person passed away, but the wife is still in good health. Is there any danger on her life? Why wasn’t she also infected? Can she be infected in the future? Will the bacteria stay in the bedroom? If so, how can we sterilize the bed? And finally, can someone marry this woman?

\textit{Al-Hilal} replied by emphasizing that sleeping with TB patients was very dangerous. The disease was described as contagious and could move from one person to the other. The reply also indicated that this woman could be asymptomatic, and the bacteria could even stay dormant for years within her body. Therefore, only with a medical examination, a doctor could tell whether she had TB and could remarry or not. Until then, it was suggested to Ahmed Effendi Fahmi to burn all the bedsheets and get a new bed.

Hopelessness around TB obliged some doctors to declare that it was a disease with no remedy. In the absence of a “real” remedy, doctors advised people to strengthen their immune system. It was believed that people could resist TB as long as their bodies were not suitable for the proliferation of the bacteria. On a practical level, TB patients were asked to carry a spittoon. Doctors warned patients that they would not be stigmatized as long as they did not endanger the public by spitting.

In order to prevent or survive TB, behavior had to be medicalized and people had to learn how to adjust their sleeping, eating, drinking, wearing, and walking habits based on medical suggestions. For example, TB patients were advised to sleep in rooms without ornaments or decorations that accumulate dust. Women who had the habit of wearing corset were warned about the possibility of getting TB. It was described that due to the corset, less oxygen would

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{1} Hasan Basha Mahmoud, “Protect Yourself Against TB,” \textit{Al-Muqtataf}, vol 20, (1896): 14.
\item \textsuperscript{2} \textit{Al-Hilal}, vol 7, (1898): 414.
\item \textsuperscript{3} Ibid., 415.
\item \textsuperscript{4} Stepanian, \textit{Notes on Tuberculosis: Written for the General Public}, 37.
\item \textsuperscript{5} Ibid., 24-25.
\item \textsuperscript{6} Ibid., 24.
\end{itemize}