

TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

- ◆ TB was also known as the white plague (TB epidemic in Europe during the 18th century) and consumption (progressive wasting away of the body).
- ◆ One billion people worldwide died of TB during the 19th and 20th centuries alone.
- ◆ The tubercle bacillus can be traced as far back as 5000 B.C. Egyptian mummies showed deformities consistent with TB disease. Evidence of TB appears in biblical scripture; in Chinese literature around 4000 B.C.; and, in religious books in India around 2000 B.C.
- ◆ A German biologist, Robert Koch, discovered the organism that caused tuberculosis (**1882**).
- ◆ The first TB sanitarium was started in New York (**1884**).
- ◆ The double-barred cross was adopted as the international symbol for the fight against TB (**1902**).
- ◆ The first drug used to treat TB (injectable streptomycin) (**1944**).
- ◆ The first oral medication is developed to treat TB (isoniazid) (**1952**).
- ◆ The TB cases in the United States in 2001 totaled 15,991.
- ◆ Anyone who breathes air is at risk of contracting TB.