

It Pays to Visit Doctor

"Tell you the truth, Doc," said Felix, "I feel just fine. Don't know why I'm here, except the wife nagged me into coming around for a checkup."

"Mmm," said the doctor, peering at Felix's record. Two years since his last visit. "Well, let's have a look."

Blood pressure? Fine. Heart? Not a bit bad. Weight? Hadn't put on an ounce. The doctor nodded, then listened thoughtfully to his chest.

"You say you've felt well? No minor complaints? Cough or anything?"

"Come to think of it, I have been coughing a little since last summer. But just in the morning. Didn't even think of mentioning it."

"Plenty of pep lately?"

"Well, now you mention it," said Felix, "guess I've lost a little of the old get-up-and-go. But none of us are getting any younger, are we, heh, heh."

He started to put on his shirt, but the doctor shook his head. "Step over here, please." Felix moved to the X-ray machine and dutifully posed.

The chest X-ray looked suspicious. And when the results from a couple of other tests were in there was no longer any doubt. Felix had tuberculosis—not terribly advanced but not in the beginning stage either.

"You'll get well," the doctor assured him. "Too bad you didn't come in earlier. But you're lucky. We've got medicines that will stop TB. You'll need to take them every day for a year or longer."

That's how it is with TB. You can have the active disease without knowing you're sick. Which is why it's important to have that annual medical checkup, with a tuberculin skin test to tell whether any TB germs have lodged in your body, or a chest X-ray to show whether disease is affecting your lungs.

For more information on TB, ask your Alaska Tuberculosis Association for free literature.

"It is the sound education of the people on which the foundation, destiny and security of every nation chiefly rest."

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