

**SYNOPSIS OF A FORTHCOMING WORK  
UPON CONSUMPTION AND ITS  
NUMEROUS KINDRED  
MALADIES: WITH TRACINGS OF THEIR  
CAUSES, AND OF THEIR CURES, UNDER  
HOMEOPATHIC TREATMENT**

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Synopsis of a Forthcoming Work Upon Consumption and Its Numerous Kindred Maladies: with tracings of their causes, and of their cures, under homeopathic treatment by Rollin R. Gregg

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**ROLLIN R. GREGG**

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1865

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

TO THE

## MEDICAL PROFESSION.

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The want of a system of pathology, based upon an absolute knowledge of the actual causes of the various diseased conditions to which humanity is subject, and, therefore, the better adapted to the therapeutics of Homœopathy, must have long been felt by all classes of practitioners of the Homœopathic school.

In vain do we search for anything satisfactory, under this head, in the pathological doctrines and teachings of the old or Allopathic school, for next to nothing is found there, about causes of disease, but assumptions and conclusions that are often so vague, irrational and contradictory, as to stamp them upon their face as abounding in error, excepting the bare fact, settled centuries since, that some diseases are hereditary, others contagious, some infectious, others miasmatic, and still others epidemic, etc. Neither do we find that much progress has yet been made in this direction, in our own school. No advance, in fact, except what little has resulted from Hahnemann's discovery of the three morbid poisons, or taints, namely, psora, syphilis and sycosis, as the foundation of much chronic and some acute disease. Yet these are but very imperfectly understood, even now, after so much discussion has

been had concerning them; for no one appears to have hitherto ascertained upon what class of tissues these taints seat, internally, or how they act thereon to produce the multitude and variety of diseases and sufferings which they do.

It was this pressing want, which I constantly experienced, in my daily professional walk, that first led me into a series of investigations, in the direction in question, though without originally designing to pursue these beyond the bounds assigned by my individual practice. But, the research once begun, continued each day to open a broader and more extended field, until, even before I was fully aware of it, I had assembled and digested a mass of facts, and results, so important and far reaching, that they could no longer be neglected, in themselves, or separated from the still higher results to which it was already apparent these unerringly pointed. It was not until then that I first formed the purpose of extending my efforts beyond my original limit, and of reducing to a system that which I had, at first, deemed only fragmentary, and detached. It was not without some surprise, therefore, that I saw the facts I had accumulated, and the necessary deductions which naturally flowed from these, arrange and classify themselves into a *system*, for one fruitful class of diseases, namely, the tuberculous, and its numerous kindred maladies, whose foundation rests upon Nature, herself.

Thus urged forward by the novelty of my discoveries, so entirely aside of anything contained in existing medical libraries, I resolved to embody the results of my labors in a volume for the profession, to be entitled, "*Consumption, and its numerous kindred maladies, shown to result from a loss of albumen by the mucous membranes,*

*and their cures traced and defined through Homœopathic treatment,"* which volume will cover no ground hitherto occupied by the medical publications of any school. That work is now *mainly* ready for the press; but still there is much yet to be done to it; and as I can only give to that duty the time I can command, in the midst of a daily active practice of my profession, it may be a considerable time before I shall have the manuscript entirely arranged and completed.

In the meantime I submit to the profession, the following synopsis of some of the most prominent features of the book. By this the professional reader will see, at least in part, what is claimed as new in medical discoveries, in the direction in question; and if any shall object that *proofs* do not accompany the assertions, here contained, all such are respectfully assured that, in the work itself, such proofs shall be furnished in most ample detail.

It may be added that the book was copyrighted over one year since, in the expectation of its going to press ere this; but owing to the unforeseen delays above referred to, it still lacks something of completion.

R. R. GREGG, M. D.

BUFFALO, October, 1865.





## SYNOPSIS.

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In the summer of 1854, while treating a case of phthisis pulmonalis, in the incipient stage, I had my attention attracted by one symptom, or feature, of it, which interested me deeply, and which has proved to be the foundation of two series of what I regard as important discoveries in pathological science, that I have since made. This symptom, or feature, of the case, was as follows: The patient, a lady of 33 years, who had, for the most part, a dry hacking cough, with chronic sore throat and irritability of the lungs, would occasionally have severe paroxysms of coughing, and expectorate thereby, a transparent gelatinous mass, sometimes as large as a medium sized marble, though irregular in form, and of sufficient consistence to maintain its shape wholly, or in part, for some little time after it was expectorated, and would then flatten down upon the surface on which it was placed. In case of failing to raise this, the patient stated that she would have a continued sensation "here," placing her hand over the bifurcation of the trachea, as though there was something lodged there that she wished to detach and eject. This would excite considerable more cough than it was common for her to have, when, finally, though sometimes not until after several days, she would detach and expectorate a mass of the size of a small pea, or less,

of cheesy-looking substance, bearing every appearance of crude tubercle, and this would terminate the increased irritation that its presence there created. The expectoration of the transparent mass, or failing in this, the increased irritation in the trachea, and final ejection of the substance resembling crude tubercle, which always terminated the additional cough, constituted a marked feature of her case until many of the other symptoms had nearly disappeared, in the progress of her cure.

Reasoning upon these facts, in the connection here presented, I naturally assumed a relation between the transparent masses named, and the more hardened ejected pellets. I concluded that the former, the transparent masses, must be the blastema of tubercle, within and from which the tuberculous corpuscles were organized, and that the latter or hardened pellets, were aggregations of tuberculous corpuscles, comprising the residue of the former, after the supposed organic change, and the removal, by evaporation or absorption, one or both—lying as the masses did in contact with the inner and free surface of the trachea—of the water which constituted so large a portion of the entire bulk of the original mass.

A starting point thus once obtained, I pursued the investigation carefully, through the succeeding five years, in every case of phthisis proper, and catarrh so-called, that I came in contact with, until I met with so many similar cases which furnished repetitions and confirmations of the above order of facts, that I embodied the conclusions at which I had then arrived, namely, that all tuberculous deposits were the result of a perverted secretion of the mucous membranes, arising in consequence of an irritation and abrasion of their free surfaces, in a pamphlet entitled, "Phthisis Pulmonalis, or Consumption shown to be the