

**ON HYDATIDS OF THE LUNG: THEIR
DIAGNOSIS, PROGNOSIS, AND
TREATMENT, AND
OBSERVATIONS ON THEIR RELATIONS TO
PULMONARY CONSUMPTION, AND
OTHER DISEASES OF THE CHEST**

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OBSERVATIONS ON THEIR RELATIONS TO PULMONARY
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OF THE CHEST,

BY

Samuel
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"Unbidden Guests."—SHAKESPEARE.

SECOND EDITION.

St
GEORGE ROBERTSON,
MELBOURNE, SYDNEY AND ADELAIDE.

1877.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THIS Work is the result of the experience of sixteen years of practice in this colony, and is a *resumé* of two papers which were read before the Medical Society of Victoria, and published in *The Australian Medical Journal* in March, 1871, and October, 1873, together with additional cases and further observations on the results of treatment. The author may lay claim to originality thus far, that specific rules for the Physical Diagnosis of the unbroken Hydatid Cyst within the chest wall and its immediate and successful surgical treatment are not to be found elsewhere. A Second Edition has been found to be necessary, as the greater part of the First was unaccountably lost on its journey to Europe, whence inquiries are frequently being made for it. An extended experience has also added to the interest of the subject, and the cases now recorded of the radical cure of old suppurating

intra-thoracic Hydatid Cysts, by their entire removal through an incision between the ribs, will be both novel and curious to the European practitioner.

To a work entitled "Kystes Hydatiques du Poumon et de la Plèvre, Etude Clinique, par Alfred Williams Hearn," which appeared in Paris in 1875, the author is indebted for many complimentary references by name to his labours on this subject, as well as to those of other Victorian observers.

As the views on diagnosis and treatment herein enunciated are the outcome of personal observation, on ground where probably no previous investigator has enjoyed equal opportunities, they will doubtless have the weight which they deserve, and no more, in the estimation of the Profession both in Europe and in these colonies. References to European observers are made only to note coincidence with, or difference from, our vastly wider experience, the Author's object being to present original matter, and this in as condensed a form as is compatible with accurate illustration.

MELBOURNE, *June*, 1877.

ON HYDATIDS OF THE LUNG.

THE subject of hydatid cysts in the lungs is one of great interest to Australian practitioners, both from the frequency with which the disease is met with, especially in Victoria, and also from the fact that its successful treatment is still to some a problem or a subject of dispute, while its diagnosis often requires from all both skill, acumen, and experience. Indeed it is upon personal observation alone that we can rely for the recognition and cure of this parasite, as it is probable that any medical man in considerable practice in Victoria has had the opportunity of seeing many score of times more cases than any of the leading authorities on chest diseases in Europe.

The question of the origination of hydatid in the human body, though a question of vast interest, cannot be more than glanced at here. The researches of Cobbold, Kuchenmeister, and others, show that the ova of the *Tœnia Echinococcus*, a parasite which infests the bowels of the dog, will, if introduced into the human body and that of some other animals, develop into what we know as the hydatid cyst.

It remains for some colonial observer, with ample leisure, as well as zeal and skill, to demonstrate with certainty the causes of the unusual frequency of the disease in this colony. Dr. MacGillivray, in a paper in the *Australian Medical Journal* for March, 1867, gives an interesting account of the special facilities afforded by mining and pastoral life for the contracting of hydatid disease; but the question naturally arises, how is it that in point of fact the inhabitants of our metropolis, rich or poor, suffer from it just as frequently as the shepherds of the western plains, or the miners of Ballarat and Sandhurst? There can be no doubt that the ova have an extraordinary tenacity of life, and it is more than probable that unfiltered Yan Yean water is a common vehicle for them. To go a step further, it is well known that desiccation, below a certain temperature, will not destroy the vitality of many forms and grades of insect life. The dust of our streets is the result of mud, from the frequent use of the Yan Yean hydrant, dried by the hot wind and powdered by the constant traffic of the day. It is notorious that this fine dust does during respiration enter the air passages more particularly of women, who are less protected about the mouth and nose by hair than men. Nothing is more likely than that the dried-up ovum, revived by the moisture and steady warmth of the body, should now commence its new career. Any one who has witnessed the drafting of sheep or cattle on a hot day will readily understand how

well this dust theory applies also for the explanation of the origination of pulmonary hydatid in those engaged in pastoral pursuits, the readily dried and pulverized droppings of the sheep-dogs furnishing the *materies morbi* ready made on the spot. If this hypothesis be correct, it will account to a great extent for the remarkable frequency of lung hydatids here relatively to those in the liver or elsewhere.

It is well known that the sheep is obnoxious to the echinococcus as well as its more familiar parasite the fluke; but whether either is communicable to the human subject by the eating of partially cooked mutton, as is the popular belief, we have no positive data at present to determine. The eating of half-washed water-cress, and such like plants growing in creeks and water-holes readily accessible to dogs, affords one common explanation of the entrance of the larva into the digestive canal, nor is the warning of Mr. Sydney Gibbons in the *Argus* not long since, of the folly of allowing children to be licked and caressed by dogs, undeserving of attention.

A very intelligent gentleman, who has lived many years in the Western district, tells me that in his opinion the dingo or native dog never had *taenia* till the introduction of the European dog, since which echinococcus has become common. The aborigines have now hydatid very frequently, but before our advent it appears to have been unknown. It is a curious fact that the opossum, which is one of the

few indigenous animals which feeds on the Eucalyptus leaves, is always free from intestinal worms, and is very fat. The kangaroo, on the other hand, which feeds on grass, has no fat, and swarms with worms, both in the intestines and also in the muscles and joints.

The whole subject of the etiology of hydatid is one of great interest and importance, and offers a fine field for original research, for which the above remarks are thrown out as suggestions.

The object of this work is to consider specially the means at our disposal for recognising with exactness the existence and locality of hydatid cysts within the chest wall, especially while the parasite is still in its integral state, and the sputa afford no assistance in the diagnosis from other morbid conditions presenting physical signs somewhat similar. Next, the curative treatment of such cysts, whether before or after their rupture and partial evacuation into the bronchial tubes, by operative measures, and medicines given by the mouth or otherwise; lastly, the prognosis or probable future of persons so affected, and relations with other diseases, more especially with pulmonary tubercle.

DIAGNOSIS.—There can be no doubt that the only absolute evidence of the existence of hydatid in the lung, whether originating there, or in process of passage from the liver, is by the appearance in the sputa of the characteristic cysts or portions of them, or fragments of the hooklets of echinococci; but this