

**ON TUBERCULOSIS: THE
NATURE, CAUSE, AND
TREATMENT. WITH NOTES
ON PANCREATIC JUICE**

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On Tuberculosis: The Nature, Cause, and Treatment. With Notes on Pancreatic Juice by
Horace Dobell

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HORACE DOBELL

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TUBERCULOSIS.

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WITH NOTES ON PANCREATIC JUICE.

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BY
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ETC. ETC.

SECOND EDITION.



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PREFACE

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

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My publishers having called upon me to prepare a second edition of this book within two months of its first publication, I cannot be expected to make any substantial alterations or additions; but I have carefully revised the text, and inserted a few notes.

41, HARLEY STREET,

April, 1866.

INTRODUCTION.

THE following papers appeared at distant intervals in the columns of different journals; and the reports of the experiments were published before the statement of the views which led to their adoption. I have now collected the several papers, and placed them in their proper order, for the convenience of those who may be interested in the important subject to which they relate.

Several curious scientific phenomena have been observed by Mr. Heathorn, Mr. Schweitzer, Mr. Morson and myself, while acting upon fats and other bodies with pancreatic juice; and I hope that, as soon as these observations have assumed a less crude form, one of these gentlemen will be induced to collect them and make them public. I think it will then be shown that many inaccuracies exist in the accounts of the physiology and chemistry of the pancreatic juice at present published.

The most useful treatise on the pancreas and its

diseases with which I have met, is that written by Dr. Copland, about twenty years ago, and published in his Dictionary of Practical Medicine. In this he makes some most important suggestions as to the probable existence of functional disorders of the pancreas influencing the quantity of its secretion, and thus producing serious derangements of the digestive processes. I would especially refer those who are interested in the subject to this treatise, and also to a work of Dr. T. King Chambers ("Digestion, and its Derangements"), published in 1855, in which the influence of the pancreas on digestion is discussed at some length.

The physiology of the pancreas has long excited attention, and has led to considerable differences of opinion. Majendie, Tiedemann, Gmelin, Lassaigne, Leuret, and others pointed out an analogy between the effects of saliva and of pancreatic juice in the digestion of starch. The operation of the pancreas in the digestion of nitrogenous matters has been principally made known by the persevering experiments of M. Lucien Corvisart, published at various times from 1857 to 1863. But our knowledge of the important functions of this organ in preparing fats for assimilation, is almost entirely due to the experiments and researches of Dr. Claude Bernard, first published in the Archives Générales de Médecine, 1849, and followed up by him ever since. I am glad of this opportunity of

expressing how much I owe to the experiments of Professor Bernard, for assistance in my own investigations into the assimilation of fat in consumption.

In 1858, Dr. G. Harley read a paper to the British Medical Association ("Notes of Experiments on Digestion"), in which he gave an interesting *resumé* of the knowledge possessed at that time of the physiology of the pancreas, and he expressed an opinion that "as a remedy in indigestion, pancreatine should be greatly superior to pepsine," because, as shown by Bernard, Corvisart, and others, it unites in itself the properties of all the other digestive fluids. This paper will well repay perusal.

In Dr. Bright's celebrated observations, published in the *Medico-Chir. Transactions*, 1833, he attempted to establish the fact that the excretion of undigested fat by the bowels was a constant accompaniment of obstruction to the pancreatic duct. A doubt was afterwards cast upon the validity of his conclusions, from the circumstance that the only remaining specimen of the "fat" passed in his cases, preserved in the Museum of the Royal College of Physicians, was examined in 1850, and found not to be fat at all, but a piece of undigested meat.

But there is no doubt that this was only an unfortunate accident. Dr. Bright was far too astute an observer to make such a foolish mistake in a series of cases.

I have proved for myself, in one case, at least, that undigested fat may be found in the stools of a person suffering from obstruction of the pancreatic duct. In 1862 I was consulted about a patient of Dr. A. A. Davis, of Fowey, Cornwall, who was passing in his motions pellets of hard whitish matter, which had for some time attracted his attention. These were analysed and examined microscopically by my friend Mr. Farrants, late President of the Microscopical Society, and myself, and found to consist of pure stearin: the albuminoid cells of the adipose tissue and the olein had been removed, leaving nothing but hard masses of stearin to be excreted. From this and other symptoms I gave a positive diagnosis of disease of the pancreas. The patient subsequently died, and the pancreas was examined by Dr. Andrew, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and myself, when the large end of the organ was found to be enlarged, the duct obliterated and imbedded in a mass of cancerous deposit. An attempt was made in this case to prolong life by partially feeding the patient upon calf's sweetbread, no satisfactory process being then on record by which to obtain the active principles of the pancreatic secretion.

At the time I attended this patient I was planning my experiments on the assimilation of fat in consumption, which I commenced during the following year at the Royal Infirmary for Diseases of the Chest, and the