# THE NEW SYDENHAM SOCIETY, INSTITUTED MDCCCLVIII, VOL. XLVI; CLINICAL LECTURES ON PULMONARY CONSUMPTION

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The New Sydenham Society, Instituted MDCCCLVIII, Vol. XLVI; Clinical Lectures on Pulmonary Consumption by Felix von Niemeyer

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FELIX VON NIEMEYER

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### CLINICAL LECTURES

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## PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

BY

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THE NEW SYDENHAM SOCIETY, LONDON.

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### PREFACE.

THE lectures contained in the following pages were first published in the "Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift" of 1866 and 1867, by *Dr. Ed. Ott*, Professor *Niemeyer's* assistant. They were soon afterwards reprinted in a collected form, and have since, in two editions, found a very wide circulation on the Continent. In presenting them now to the Members of the "New Sydenham Society," it need hardly be stated that, since their first appearance, the "thorough reform of the doctrine of pulmonary consumption" which Professor *Niemeyer* then called for has been inaugurated. The last few years have been distinguished by great activity in this very field of pathology, and most important discoveries have been made.

The views insisted upon by Professor Niemeyer have, almost to their whole extent, been confirmed by the results of recent investigation. But the renewed study of the whole question has led also to a more just appreciation of the works of former observers. In this country the labours of Thomas Addison, which had almost been forgotten, and which had remained entirely unknown on the Continent, have been brought to light again, and show that already at a period when Laënnee's toaching had just commenced to dominate over the pathology of lung diseases, an independent observer arrived at, and firmly held, the opinion which in more recent times was established by Reinhardt, Virchow, and his disciples, and which forms the keynote of these lectures, namely that, to use Addison's own words, "inflammation constitutes the great instrument of destruction in every form of phthisis."

The other chief point of Professor Niemeyer's teaching,

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namely the theory first brought forward by Buhl in 1857, concerning the relationship of miliary tubercle to cheesy products, which he adopts with some modifications, has, since the appearance of these lectures, not only been most ably supported by the clinical and pathological observations of C. E. E. Hoffmann, but has been strikingly confirmed by the results of the experimental researches which were started by Villemin, and which have been worked out by Simon, A. Clark, Burdon Sanderson, and Wilson Fox in this country, by Colin, Chaureau, and others in France, and by Lebert, Waldenburg, Colnheim, and others in Germany. It is now an established fact that miliary tubercles can be artificially produced in animals by the inoculation of cheesy, tubercular, or purulent matter, or by simply establishing a deposit of pus in some part of the body.

By the results of these experiments, Buhl's theory has both been narrowed and enlarged : the local nature of the infection, upon which Niemeyer has already laid great stress in these lectures, has been placed more in the foreground, and, tubercular infection having been divested of its specific nature, tubercle may be said in some sense to have lost some of its special malignancy, while, on the other hand, the sharp distinction made by Niemeyer between the inflammatory processes and tubercles has been considerably qualified by the fact that both may result from infection. But, however the clinical aspects of consumption may ultimately be affected by the further development of these studies, the picture here drawn, by Professor Niemeyer, of pulmonary phthisis, and more especially the principles derived therefrom for its treatment, will lose none of their force for a long time to come. These lectures have, therefore, although a few years have already elapsed since their first appearance, lost nothing of their importance, and may form for the Members of the Society a suitable accompaniment to Addison's papers on the same subject in one of the previous volumes.

On the part of the Translator, a few notes have been added

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in explanation of terms exclusively or differently used in German medical nomenclature.

Some alteration from, and addition to, the original has, with Professor *Niemeyer's* concurrence, been made at page 39, by inserting some sentences from a more recent paper by the Author.

In conclusion, I have to express my best thanks to my friend and colleague, Dr. A. B. Shepherd, for having kindly revised the manuscript before going to press, and for much assistance in correcting the proof-sheets.

C. B.

FIREBURY PLACE NORTH, May, 1870.

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