THE NATURE AND AFFINITIES OF TUBERCLE; BEING THE GULSTONIAN LECTURES FOR THE YEAR 1867

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REGINALD SOUTHEY

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BY

REGINALD SOUTHEY, M.D. Oxon.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;

ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL;

LATE RADCLIFFE TRAVELLING FELLOW.

LONDON:

LONGMANS, GREEN, READER, AND DYER.

1867.

TO

SIR THOMAS WATSON, BART., M.D., F.R.S.

LATE PRESIDENT OF

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,

THIS SMALL VOLUME

IS INSCRIBED,

AS A

MARK OF PROFESSIONAL ESTEEM AND PERSONAL REGARD,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

The Gulstonian Lectures, which I had the honour to deliver this year, and of which an abridgment has been already printed in the columns of the "British Medical Journal," are published by me in the present volume in their original entirety, at the request of several members of my profession who listened to them with favouring attention. They have been carefully revised, but the only real change to which they have been subjected is one of dress. They now appear divided into chapters instead of into lectures.

Two reasons have prompted me to make this alteration. Three lectures were somewhat narrow limits for the discussion of the subject which I had chosen, and I was therefore compelled to press all I could into each hour allotted to me: the halting points hence became much less a matter of choice than of necessity.

But when a lecturer publishes his ideas in book-form, his readers have a right to ask for better appointed breathing-spaces: this end is most conveniently attained by the division of his subject into chapters; a method, too, greatly facilitating the compilation of a table of contents, without which I reckon almost any printed volume seriously defective.

My selection of a strictly pathological subject is in accordance with the expressed wish of the founder of the lectureship, who directed the lecturer to give, so far as it was possible, a practical demonstration only of some process of disease upon the dead body.

In themselves these pages contain little that can at all fairly be entitled original research; indeed, the chapter which enumerates the separate anatomical features of the different forms of lymphatic tumours, and discusses the elements common to them all, is no more than a feeble review of a most able chapter upon this subject, contained in the valuable work of Professor Virchow upon morbid swellings.

My sole aim and whole endeavour has been to search for information upon the nature of Tubercle, to collect together the knowledge that has of late years been brought to bear on this most in-

teresting inquiry, and to put it into readable form, for the profit of my professional brethren, and, I will hope, for the benefit of suffering humanity.

It will be observed that I take little notice of the recent researches of M. Villemin upon the inoculability of Tubercle, published in the "Comptes Rendus," tome lxi., 1865, pp. 1012—1014.

Rabbits and Guinea-pigs, the animals usually selected as subjects for these experiments, present, even when they are improperly kept, or only badly fed, morbid appearances in their lungs, spleen, liver, and other glands, which somewhat closely resemble Tubercle of man; but, in common with Dr. Andrew Clark and other pathologists, I would urge that the identity of these two products of disease is any thing but proved; indeed, such microscopical evidence as we possess points to minute anatomical differences existing between them. Further, the fact of this animal abnormality being sometimes of spontaneous origin should make us forbear drawing too hasty inferences from its existence after an inoculation of the animal with human Tubercle: surely there is a probability of its nature being more akin to those metastatic, ill-nourished patches in man which have obtained the bad name of pyæmic deposits.

At all events, in the present pages I have deemed it wiser to avoid entering any further upon the field of inquiry thus newly upturned, and which to my mind does not offer much promise of future fertility.

32, MONTAGUE PLACE, W.C.,
Sept. 26, 1867.