

## UEBER die CONJUNCTIVALE TUBERKULIN-REACTION

BY

DR. FRITZ LEVY

*(Extract by Dr. Rorke, Winnipeg, from the Deutsche  
Medizinische Wochenschrift, No. 3, 1908.)*

A new epoch in the diagnosis of Tuberculosis opened when Koch found that the Tuberculous gave a specific reaction to the toxins of the Tubercle Bacillus. This was used by subcutaneous injection and caused a febrile reaction.

A serious disadvantage was that it appeared to cause an acute recrudescence of the Tuberculosis and occasionally a miliary form of the disease.

This new method avoids a general reaction and therefore the danger of propagating Tuberculosis.

The development of this method began in 1902, when Richet described a toxin from actinomyces which had the property by repeated injection of producing over-sensitiveness instead of immunizing.

Arthus studied the analogous property of repeated injections of horse serum in rabbits.

Wolf Eisner formulated the law governing hypersensitiveness due to repeated injections of a foreign proteid into another animal. He injected extracts from the organs of a calf into rabbits and found that the first and second injections caused no reaction, but between the third and fifth of the same dose the animal succumbed. The same experimenter found that this applied also to proteids from bacteria. This has been corroborated by others investigating especially the over-sensitiveness due to Tuberculin and its analogy to the same reaction from serum.

Von Pirquet and Schick studied the clinical phenomena of this so-called revaccination and applied the results of their investigations to methods of subcutaneous injections of tuberculin in children already suffering from tuberculosis. They found that a papule appeared at the site of injection, but no systemic reaction occurred. Afterwards v. Pirquet demonstrated in Berlin the results of his investigations upon several hundred children. During the discussion following this Wolf Eisner