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TUBERCULOSIS IN ANIMALS.*

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Mr. President and Gentlemen:

A few weeks ago, your most worthy President invited me to prepare a paper on "Tuberculosis in Animals," for presentation at the weekly meeting of your society. Aware that the subject was of great magnitude, in some way I unwillingly said yes to the invitation. Brief consideration convinced me that I should turn back and apologize for my temerity, again counteracted by the thought that indolence is not a virtue, and laziness is a crime. I do not propose in this instance to stretch out the prologue, but I have to ask you not to measure my remarks on the subject of tubercle too critically, as the time of preparation was short. And having been obliged, for a score of years, to rub against the essentially practical side of life, I find that any attempt at essay writing on my part, still keeps me within the bounds of the school, and my remarks will have to be judged accordingly.

It will not be necessary to dwell at any length on the history of tubercle, and it will suffice for present purposes to state that it first received attention in the middle ages, and state recognition, as a disease of animals to be guarded against, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries—if we except the prohibitory enactments in the Mosaic law,

* Read before Saint John Medical Society, November 23rd, 1898.