cacy of it, usually associated with Niemeyer's name, to the effect that the ordinary form of chronic phthisis pulmonum is of inflammatory origin and due to a so-called "caseous pneumonia," which may be induced by a *catarrhal* bronchitis or the local irritation of blood poured into the bronchial cells in pulmonary hemorrhage.

As these views are of overwhelming importance, in view of the practical consequences which must inevitably follow their establishment, I venture to raise some objections to them for the consideration of the members of this Association.

The *absorption* theory of tubercle rests mainly upon the interesting experiments initiated by Villemin in 1865 and subsequently confirmed and extended by Andrew Clark, Burdon-Sanderson, Wilson Fox, Waldenburgh, Cohnheim, and others. These experiments revealed the important fact that in the Guinea pig, and in some other animals, the inoculation of tubercle, pus, putrid muscle, etc., of tubercle which had lain several months in alcohol, or had been submitted to the action of fuming nitric acid, or of carbolic acid, will produce *primary* lesions at the site of inoculation and *secondary* lesions in the internal organs, which appear to be identical with tubercle. Even the local irritation of a seton of cotton or of silver wire will produce similar effects in the Guinea pig.

Now, lest these inoculation experiments upon animals should be assumed to have proved more than they have—let it be borne in mind (1) that every animal has its own special organization and probably its own special aptitudes as regards diseased action; and (2) that it has yet to be shown that the inoculation of tubercle or other material is capable of producing lesions identical with tubercle in the several organs of the human body.

(3.) Clinical experience does not show that the irritation of setons or issues is causative of tuberculous disease in man.

(4.) Local suppuration when productive of secondary