

my intention—indeed it would be out of place—to enter into any critical or historical sketch of the history of the various theories which have been promulgated respecting phthisis. I shall proceed without further preface, at once, to the heart of my subject, and endeavor in the fewest words and plainest manner to lay before you the conclusions at which I have arrived.

By phthisis I mean that assemblage and progression of symptoms, due to suppurative or ulcerative destruction, of more or less circumscribed non-malignant deposits in the lung. I shall not pretend that this definition is perfect, but I claim for it that it is a good working definition, and has this enormous advantage, that it involves no hypothesis, and whatever our views of phthisis may be, we may retain the name whilst the idea may change. You will observe in this definition that I have set entirely on one side the disease with which we are all familiar, under the name of Acute Tuberculosis.

The chief thing I have to say about that disease, before dismissing it, is this:—I think it has no special relations to phthisis at all. In its methods of approach, in the phenomena which attend its progress, and in the changes which we discover in them after death, in the state of the organs during life, it exhibits all the characteristics of what we call zymotic disease. I look upon acute tuberculosis as a sort of fever; which has for one of its anatomical expressions the little things called tubercles. If I appeal to the experience of any one present who has had the opportunity, not often acquired, of examining a number of cases of acute tuberculosis, I am sure he will agree with me that acute tuberculosis rarely issues in what we call phthisis, or in any disease which would come within the terms of the definition I have made. Acute primitive tuberculosis, beginning often, either in children or adults, in apparently perfect health, producing fever, with a sort of capillary bronchitis, making rapid progress, marked by irregular fever, usually terminates in death in from three to six weeks.

Now, I might add, that having been occupied at the same time as Villemin in performing experiments upon inoculation, and having also tried other methods of producing tuberculosis