

induce us to take all possible measures to prevent it, and I do not think anything is sufficient for this but a personal examination of every piece of pork, ham, bacon, or sausage used as food, to see that every part of it has been subjected to a thorough cooking process.

One other point still I should like to speak of. We have seen that the disease shows itself occasionally in the human subject, but very frequently in the pig. Now, how is it, under these circumstances that the continuance of the species of *trichina spiralis* is provided for by nature? We have here an animal that arrives at maturity in the intestine of the human subject. In that situation the female bears living young in consequence of the individual having eaten pork filled with the encysted and quiescent trichinae. So long as these remain encysted and quiescent in the pig's muscles they remain practically undeveloped and practically sexless. This flesh is eaten by the human subject. In the intestines of the human subject the worms are set free, the females are impregnated and bear young, and these scatter themselves throughout the body. Now, when these young have, in their turn, in the human subject arrived at the period of quiescence, how are they ever to get back to the intestine of a living animal, and so become capable of continuing their species?

I presume that the mode by which the race is continued is this: Suppose we start with the pig infected with quiescent and sexless trichina. This pig is butchered. You know that butchering establishments are the abundant resort of rats, which feed upon the refuse scraps of meat, and of course these after a time become infected with trichina. The worms are developed in the intestine of the rat, and produce living young. These not only infect the muscular system of the rat, but they are also discharged with the feces. These feces become mingled with the food of the pig,—an animal, as we know, not very fastidious with regard to his food and consequently subject to several parasitic diseases,—and thus the round of development of the trichina is completed. Again, its perpetuation is provided for by a similar round between the cat and the mouse. The mouse became infected by, feeding upon refuse meat, and the cat by devouring the mouse or rat. We have therefore the natural history of the animal embracing in each case two different phases, in one of which it undergoes an active development, in the interior of the intestine while in the other it assumes the quiescent form, become encysted in the substance of the muscular system.

There are other points of considerable interest with regard to the rapidity with which the human subject may be infected, the great number of persons who may become infected by eating the product of a single slaughtered animal, and the degree of fatality attending the disease. Enough, however, is known to convince us that the affection is a very frequent one, and liable to be exceedingly fatal, or if not fatal, to produce prolonged and exhausting disease.

Much would be affected if all pork offered for sale in the market could be subjected to inspection; and this has been done in some parts of Germany: pork being liable to infection not only with trichina, but also with *cysticercus*, producing tape worm in

the human subject. Such inspection would undoubtedly prove very useful. Still it would not afford complete protection, unless carried out with an amount of detail which would in all probability prove practically unattainable. The only absolute protection, therefore, must be that exercised by the individual for himself. He must see that he never uses for food any kind of preparation of pork in any form not so thoroughly cooked as to destroy every possible vestige of parasitic life.—*Medical Record*.

[NOTE.—We have been disappointed in obtaining the plate (referring to this case) in time for this issue, but hope to give it in our June number.]

## The Dominion Medical Journal,

A MONTHLY RECORD OF

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE.

LLEWELLYN BROCK, M.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, MAY, 1869.

### THE MEDICAL SECTION OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE AND THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

The following preamble and resolutions formed the substance of the communication addressed by the Secretary of the Medical Section to the Medical Council, during its late session in Toronto, and referred to in our last number. The resolutions were discussed ably at a large meeting of the Medical Section, and unanimously adopted:—"Whereas, the Legislature of Ontario, at its last Session, did pass an act respecting the Medical Profession of the Province, in which act provisions are made to place upon a common ground, with ourselves, a class of practitioners known as Homœopaths, and another class who style themselves Eclectics; and, whereas, we, as members of a liberal profession, are unwilling to violate our clearly defined principles by associating with any sect holding views and theories we consider to be absurd and false; Therefore, be it Resolved, That the Medical Section of the Canadian Institute does, in the most emphatic manner, protest against such unprecedented and uncalled for legislation.

Resolved, That this our protest be communicated to the Medical Council for Ontario, now in Session, with the request that the Council take prompt and energetic steps to secure our release from associations so repugnant."

This communication led to a long and very animated discussion by the Council, and was finally laid on the table, and the subject dropped.

The Medical Section has since held several meetings for the purpose of discussing the Medical Act,