

*Trichiniasis being an abstract of an essay submitted to the Medical Faculty McGill University for the degree of M.D., C.M.* By THOMAS D'ARCY LUCAS.

(Continued from page 497, Vol. V.)

*Diagnosis.*—In the first stage the diagnosis relates to its discrimination from irritation of the gastro-intestinal canal produced by any other cause, and this is, by no means, at all times easy or even possible. If there be derangement in the functions of the alimentary canal, accompanied with pains over a large portion of the abdomen, followed by constitutional disturbance and attributable to no other cause, suspect Trichiniasis. Inquiry should be made concerning the food taken for the past week, and if meat has been eaten, specimens of it should be examined microscopically; if Trichinæ be found, the diagnosis is complete; if not Trichiniasis cannot yet be excluded. If more than one person be attacked in a similar manner, having eaten of the same articles of diet, suspicion is very much strengthened, in fact this furnishes more than suspicious evidence, it is probable that the disease is Trichinosis. A method proposed by Davaine might be brought to account even in this early stage; the possibility of finding trichinæ in the feces by microscopical examination. It has been ascertained by Senckort and Davaine, that on the introduction of Trichinæ into the alimentary canal, the number of females is greater than that of the males, that after three or four days the females are much greater in numbers, and that after several days more have elapsed the female Trichinæ are out of all proportions to the male. It has consequently been inferred that the males, where connexion has taken place, having discharged their function, perish and pass off with the fœces, while the functions of the females require a greater longevity. Again it is possible that either males or females might become entangled in the contents of the bowels, carried along to the anus and discharged externally. Should positive results be obtained by such an examination of the fœces, the certainty of the diagnosis is at once established, but such an examination to be at all satisfactory, must be thoroughly performed, and this, it is natural to suppose, would be a most troublesome and unpleasant process, sufficiently so to prevent its general adoption; if the results prove negative, Trichiniasis can by no means be excluded.

The diagnosis in the second stage of the disease, requires its discrimination from Rheumatic and Typhoid Fever.

The absence of fever of an inflammatory type; of frequent and irregular changes in the temperature; of profuse perspiration; of ascidity of the secretions; of the affections of the joints in the majority