

# THE CANADA LANCET.

**A Monthly Journal of Medical and Surgical Science  
Criticism and News.**

*Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Address, DR. J. L. DAVISON, 12 Charles St., Toronto.*

*Advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms. All Letters and Remittances to be addressed to DR. C. SHEARD, 320 Jarvis St., Toronto.*

AGENTS.—DAWSON BROS., Montreal; J. & A. McMILLAN, St. John, N.B.; GEO. STREET & Co., 30 Cornhill, London, Eng.; M. H. MARLER, 23 Rue Richer, Paris.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1891.

**The LANCET has the Largest Circulation of any  
Medical Journal in Canada.**

## LANNELONGUE'S NEW TREATMENT FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

It has been wisely said that children learn by asking questions. Everyone knows how tiresome children become with their innumerable "why's" and "what fors," but such is the natural means by which they gain information. We, as children endeavoring to fathom the secrets of nature, and to frustrate her designs, when they are inimical to the well-being of her created beings, and especially of man, must proceed in a manner very similar to our children, by questioning our great mother Nature. And, like them, our questions are often wrongly and weakly put, and our comprehension of her answers, however truly and plainly given, is often childish and weak. The attempts of scientific men to find out from nature the manner of her procedure in destroying animals by the bacillus tuberculosis have been many, and we have at length arrived at a satisfactory conclusion regarding that first great problem. But, unfortunately, although the attempts to interfere with this destructive process, have been vastly numerous, they have so far been in vain, and tuberculosis and its allied diseases are as fell as ever they were.

So that while we are apt to grow weary in the everlasting strife, and have, perhaps, experienced that "hope deferred which maketh the heart sick," we must still welcome any new means of combating that dread enemy—tubercle. And the very latest,

and one which at first blush promises well, is that of M. Lannelongue, Professor of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris.

In a recent communication by this gentleman, at the Académie of Medicine, on what he calls "a method of prompt transformation of tuberculous products in the joints and other parts of the human body," he brings forward his plan of operations. The idea was suggested to him by the reduction of a large congenital hypertrophy of the arm by sub-aponeurotic injections of a solution of zinc chloride, which speedily reduced the size of the arm, and changed in a few months, what was a mass of flabby moist tissue into a dense hard tissue. This sclerosis is not confined to the immediate points of injection, but radiated as from centres, and apparently closely imitates cicatrization. In conjunction with M. Achard, the action of the drug has been tested on animals, the tissues of which had been subjected to tuberculous changes, with the result of producing a sclerosis of the tissues which stopped the further eccentric ravages of the bacillus. The injections were made, not into the foci of the bacillary zone, nor in the granulations, but outside and around them, where the active spreading process is going on, the central portions being at the same time in a condition of degeneration and necrosis.

Thus he attacks with his agent, the peripheral, active portions, where the bacillus is spreading eccentrically. He thus causes these peripheral parts to take on sclerotic changes, which render them unfit to propagate, by continuity of substance, the morbid process. These changes are, broadly speaking, a fixing and killing of the anatomical elements of the tissues, an obliteration of the capillaries and small blood vessels of the zone, and a narrowing of the lumen of the arteries and veins by setting up an inflammation of their walls. There is also an enormous influx of new anatomical elements, or new embryonic cells into the changed tissues, not only at the point of injection, but for some distance around it. These not only infiltrate the tuberculous tissue, but as M. Lannelongue suggests, commence an active warfare upon the bacilli (see work on Leucocytes, CANADA LANCET, Vol. xxiii, p. 368) ending in their destruction. The morbid tissues acted upon by the zinc chloride are slowly absorbed and finally disappear, while the young tissues undergoes or-