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CLINICAL LECTURE ON A CASE OF FIBROID PHTHISIS.

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REPORTED STENOGRAPHICALLY BY S. A. ABBOTT, ESQ., OF THE HANSARD STAFF.

GENTLEMEN: There is no disease that you will have greater difficulty in thoroughly understanding than phthisis. I have no doubt that to many of you the difficulties which this subject presents have already become apparent. It is, in fact, at present, the bugbear of medical students, particularly in their last year. This is owing in great part to the inherent complexity of the subject, and in part, I am sorry to say, to the exceedingly diverse theories and views which at present prevail upon the pathology of the disease.

The simplest classification of phthisis is into pneumonic, tuberculous and fibroid varieties. It is of the last that I wish to speak to you to-day, and to show you this interesting example of the disease which many of you have already studied in the ward. This form of phthisis is characterized by certain peculiar features. In the first place, it runs an unusually long course. Patients may live for twenty-five or thirty years; in many instances, indeed, it does not diminish to any great extent their term of existence. I will refer, in a few minutes, to a case of a gentleman who has