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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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*On Microscopic Examination of Flesh for the detection of Trichina.* By J. BAKER EDWARDS, Ph. D., F. C. S., late Lecturer on Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence at the Royal Infirmary School of Medicine, Liverpool, England. (With Photograph.)

The attention of the medical profession in Canada, has been recently called to the detection of *Trichina* by the occurrence of two fatal cases of *Trichiniasis* in Hamilton, Ont., and of several cases in Montreal, of a more protracted but less serious character, and an enquiry has been instituted by the Board of Health in Montreal, as to the existence of this parasite in the pork offered for sale in the public markets, and as to what steps can be taken by the authorities to protect the public from the sale of meat so infested.

The report of the commissioners appointed to investigate the subject states that no *Trichina* were discovered in the forty samples examined, and the failure on the part of some medical men to discover any in the portion of ham which gave rise to the illness of the family in College street, has raised some doubts as to whether the diagnosis could have been correct. This has been permanently settled by incisions into the painful muscles of two of the patients, from whom portions of muscle were extracted and living *Trichina* found therein. The differences of opinion which have been expressed in relation to these cases, proves how little the scanty literature on the subject of *Trichina* has been read and how easily such cases may escape professional recognition, where no fatal results ensue.

These cases will be fully entered into by Dr. Bessey, I shall therefore confine myself to a history of the examination.

On Good Friday, March 26th, I received from Dr. Bessey a slice of ham which he informed me was next in cut to a portion which had been eaten by several persons on the previous day, and caused serious illness.