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THE DISTRIBUTION OF LESIONS IN CHRONIC PHTHISIS.*

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The advance in the knowledge of tuberculosis in the last few years has been far beyond that which the most enthusiastic observers could have anticipated. From the first demonstration of Bayle in 1810, of the extensive distribution of peculiar nodules in the various organs and their relation to pulmonary phthisis, from the doctrine of Lænnec in 1825, that in all cases of phthisis the affection of the lungs is tubercular, to the teaching of Villemin in 1865, who first discovered that tuberculosis could be reproduced by inoculation, to the announcement of Koch in 1882, form the great epochs in the history of this disease. I may safely say that no disease in our times has more engaged the attention of the physician, the surgeon, and particularly the pathologist. Energy, observation and investigation have done much in this the age of pathological research. The lungs, the favorite haunt of tubercle, have been subject to this disease as far back as the history of medicine will take us. The bright eye, the flushed cheek, the wasted frame, the lanky hair, signs of its advanced stage, were not unknown to the ancients. But it was not till this century, and particularly towards the latter portion of it, that the mystery has been unravelled, and our thoughts on the subject have become consolidated.

* Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.