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SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THE NATURE, SYMPTOMS, AND TREATMENT OF THE PRE-TUBERCULAR STAGE OF PULMONARY CONSUMPTION

BY

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Disease may be said to have three different methods of expressing itself: First, by alteration of function without appreciable alteration in structure; second, by alteration in structure, but of a temporary nature only, the parts returning to their normal condition upon the removal of the cause; third, by alteration in structure of a permanent character, the affected part being unable to return to a normal state.

Pulmonary consumption may be taken as a type of a disease which passes through

all the different phases by which disease in general expresses itself. It is not the object of this paper to follow the disease through its whole course, but to direct special attention to those alterations in function, which invariably precede the local lesions—the pre-tubercular stage.

An endeavor will be made to show: 1, the origin and nature of these "shadows of coming events;" 2, that they can be easily recognized by symptoms both subjective and objective; 3, that their removal is easily affected, and that the same lines of treatment adopted for their removal gives the best results yet attained in the treatment of the disease when already established.

I. *Causes.*—As to the nature and origin of these disturbances of function constituting the pre-tubercular stage, it is the object of this paper to show that flesh food leaves an amount of nitrogenous waste in the circulation, which, by increasing arter-