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TRICHINA SPIRALIS.

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(Concluded.)

Hartwig is said to have boiled trichinous meat for 24 minutes without destroying them, but 3 minutes additional boiling is said to have killed them effectually. Virchow soaked trichinous meat in so strong a solution of chromic acid as to coagulate the muscular tissue, yet the animals on being freed from their capsules showed by their movements that life was not extinct.

Clinically, a case of trichinous infection may be divided into four stages.

I.—STAGE OF INCUBATION.

No symptoms are observed for the first few days after eating trichinous meat. As above stated, it takes from three to four days for the full development of the animal, and a few more days pass before the first symptoms caused by the migration of the young become manifest. As a rule no symptoms are shown until the sixth or seventh day after partaking of the diseased meat. The symptoms, however, may come on at any time from two days to four weeks. The time and the severity of the symptoms greatly depend on the amount of meat eaten.

2.—PERIOD OF GASTRO-INTESTINAL IRRITATION
(STADIUM INGRESSIONIS, RUPPRECHT.)

This comprises the period from ingestion to the tenth or twelfth day. The earliest symptoms in mild cases is oedema of the face, especially below the eyes. In severe cases, besides the oedema, there is more or less fever, with gastric catarrh, and diarrhoea. In some of the

epidemics, vomiting was one of the earliest symptoms. Violent colic, fetid breath, cardialgia, eructations, anorexia, with a general feeling of malaise, were observed in others. While cholera was observed in some of the epidemics, there was obstinate constipation in others. As a rule, during the first stage, no symptoms manifest themselves, but what are daily met with in cases of gastro-intestinal irritation, due to other causes. That it is extremely difficult to distinguish cases of trichinosis in this stage from typhoid or typhus fever may be gathered from the fact that the earliest cases of trichinosis were generally, at first, taken to be cases of fever, until other symptoms and actual demonstration showed the fallacy of the diagnosis.

3.—PERIOD OF MUSCULAR IRRITATION, (STADIUM
IMMIGRATIONIS, RUPPRECHT.)

About the end of the first week there will be oedema of the face. In some cases this will successively invade the forehead, temples and face. The eyes become injected and watery, with photophobia and painful movements. There may be oedema of the tongue and glottis. Ophthalmoscopic examinations are said to exhibit oedema of the retina. Hoarseness is commonly observed, due to the immigration of the entozoa into the larynx. There may be partial deafness from closure of the eustachian tube. The fever rises—the pulse ranges from 85 to 120. The respiration varies from 30 to 36 per minute. The temperature rises to from 101° to 106° Fahrenheit. If the affection commenced with diarrhoea, this will continue; but if there was constipation, this will remain so. The skin is generally very active, perspiration being often enormous. The perspiration will often produce an eruption similar to that in typhoid