

The Canada Medical Record

VOL. XIX.

MONTREAL, APRIL, 1891.

No. 7

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Original Communications.

PROF. KOCH'S METHOD OF TREATING TUBERCULOSIS AS OBSERVED IN BERLIN AND LONDON.*

By Dr. J. B. McCONNELL, Professor of Pathology, University of Bishop's College, Montreal.

I arrived in Berlin on December 20th, 1890, the beginning of the holiday season, and at a time when the excitement in regard to the new treatment for tuberculosis had somewhat subsided, and most of the foreign physicians had left. But few students were in attendance at the hospitals, and the quiet which thus prevailed was an advantage to one wishing only to observe the effects of the treatment by Prof. Koch's lymph, and the best time to gain information in regard to the cases was found to be during the rounds* of the assistant physician in the early morning as he enquired into and recorded the progress of the treatment. My observations were made chiefly at the clinics of Drs. Cornet, Krause and Bergmann at the Charité and Moabit Hospitals and at the City of London Hospital for diseases of the chest, Victoria Park, and one cannot express too much gratitude for the pains taken at one and all

of these institutions to give visiting investigators the fullest information.

Most of the cases had then been under treatment from three to six weeks, and some of the temperature charts conspicuous at the head of each bed at the Charité had by being attached to one another grown to be a couple of yards and over in length, and so arranged that the progress of the temperature, pulse and respiration tracings—in different colors running along together—could be seen at a glance. I was a little surprised to note at some of the clinics in Berlin how completely the minute directions given by Prof. Koch for the use of the lymph were ignored. I saw the lymph dropped immediately into the diluting solution without any other measurement, and the same syringe used with one patient after another without re-cleansing or the application of any antiseptic to the seat of inoculation, all apparently without any penalty resulting from the nonconformity to specified rules.

One can but inadequately convey in a single paper the great amount of information which one can note down in the course of 15 days' study among several hundred cases. The details of typical results of the application of the lymph must now be so familiar to all that I will confine myself to a few notes of special features and some general

*Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Montreal.