

ages before Adam. It is also related of Hippocrates, that being called upon to cure Demetrius of supposed madness, found him dissecting animals in order to discover the causes of diseases of the lungs, upon which the learned doctor reported him not only in his senses but the wisest of men.

Success, however, followed far in the rear, and but poorly rewarded the faithful laborer; for we find a Pupil of the really learned Pythagoras describing respiration from a very limited knowledge of the facts. "As soon," says he, "as the humidity, of which there is great store in the first formation begins to be diminished, the air, (insinuating itself between the pores of the body) succeeds it; after that the natural heat by its tendency to make its escape, drives the air out, and when this natural heat enters the body again, the air follows it afresh, the former of these actions is called inspiration, the latter expiration, (Junty.) Notwithstanding the increased knowledge given us by Histologist, chemists and microscopists, in a popular sense, Consumption is considered a disease solely of the lungs, and so has been from the very earliest records, till within the last few years, nor is it yet satisfactorily explained why the tubercular deposit almost invariably finds its resting place in the parenchyma or sponge-like substance of the lungs. The different varieties of the old writers having passed away—I need not allude to them—for since the period of the distinguished introducer of Stethoscopy, Laennec, pathologists have generally admitted but one species of phthisis, the tubercular, and have considered that the existence of tubercles of the lungs constitutes the proper character of the disease, though Dr Dunglison thinks it may be well to include under the term, all those forms of disease of the lungs which arise from the formation of tuberculous matter, or of deposition and indurations, which are allied to it, in the substance of the lungs.

Wherever tubercle is found it is in a solid state and consists of about 98 parts of animal and two of saline matter, comprising chloride of sodium and phosphate and carbonate of lime. Some of them, however, almost entirely calcareous, consisting, according to the analysis of Dr. Marshall Hall, of only three parts animal and ninety-seven of saline, mostly phosphate of lime with some carbonate of lime and carbonate of magnesia. There can be no doubt that tuberculous matter as it escapes from the blood is more soft and fluid than as generally found, and while in this state capable of being acted upon by the absorbents, and affected by the medical properties of Iodine, Bromine and Mercury.