

iodide of potassium, which stimulate to a high degree the phagocytic properties of the mononuclear leucocytes.

This brief review of the work done during the last seventeen years in search of a cure for and a prophylactic against tuberculosis demonstrates that immunity can be produced in the lower animals at least; yet so far our profession stands in this field of research about where it did at the beginning of that period.

We have not been wholly successful with our extracts, but with the bacilli themselves a higher degree of immunity has been attained. For this reason I have taken the liberty on this great occasion to sum up the results accomplished in order to fix upon the minds of us all just where we stand, and to plead with you that we may unite with renewed energy in the search for the active principle, so that we may venture to use it upon the human economy without incurring the danger that must attend the introduction of the bacilli themselves in our present state of knowledge.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, covering a domain of 45,000 square miles, and maintaining a population of seven millions of people, has recently passed a great health law, which confers upon the Commissioner of Health both the funds and the authority to pursue original investigations in search of a means to combat tuberculosis.

I have, therefore, been working to obtain that substance which we know produces immunity to this disease in cattle, and yet while nothing has been obtained which will warrant results being given to the world I am tempted, because of this occasion, to suggest the line of thought upon which my new work is being executed, hoping to tempt my co-workers to help me follow out investigations to either a positive or negative conclusion.

The results of postmortems and the vaccination of cattle with tubercle bacilli have taught us that there is not only something curative, but also preventive. Tuberculin is not an antitoxin. It is a diagnostic agent, and stimulates an incapsulation of tubercle foci, and also causes a special degree of febrile reaction in tuberculous animals.