

animal economy modified by the blood disease are undoubted; and when we consider them it only enhances the necessity which exists of our improving the pathology of the general disease.

“The uniform association of structural and functional aberration in the tuberculous constitution is very striking. The remark made by Louis, that ‘a function may be more or less seriously interrupted for a long time without the organ presenting any appreciable change of texture,’ is undoubtedly true; but we must not look over the qualification—*appreciable*. This great pathologist evidently meant—without any of those well-marked pathological results which may usually enter into the post-mortem description. A change of function always implies a modification of structure, and most especially so in a tuberculous subject. In such a subject debility, defective digestion, and depraved secretion, for instance, never occur without implying a modification of structure in its nature tuberculous.

“Such, according to my view of tuberculous and scorfulous affections, is tuberculosis, as an essential disease of the blood, to which man, and the animals immediately beneath him in the zoological scale are subject more or less, at all periods of life, from early embryotic development to old age and decrepitude. Many will regard the disease thus described as an abstraction; and it must be admitted, that as it comes under the cognizance of the practitioner, it is rarely made the subject of his consideration and treatment until some local affection of a particular tissue or organ has proceeded so far as to complicate its symptoms, and still more rarely does it proceed to a fatal issue without some local affection having supervened. Nevertheless, throughout the progress of all the local diseases constituting varieties of tuberculosis, the symptoms and characteristics of the general affection may be recognised; it occasionally happens that tuberculosis proceeds in the adult to the last stage of marasmus and a fatal issue without hæmoptysis, the aggregation of tubercle, or any obvious local affection. This is a more frequent occurrence in the early periods of life. It frequently appears also, that some local affection—as tubercles in the lungs—supervenes, but of so circumscribed an extent, that it interferes little with the functions of the organ, or the general symptoms of tuberculosis, or of the tuberculous predisposition, and from hygienic or other causes the general affection subsides, and nature renders inert the local mischief by a cretaceous formation of fibrinous deposit. Occasionally the local affection is too trivial to compromise life, and yet the patient goes on dying of the general disease. This frequently happens in children, and sometimes in adults, as proved by symptoms before death, and the existence of too circumscribed an organic affection, detected *post-mortem*, to account for death; but the most frequent result is, that organic disease sets itself up, and complicates, and very materially modifies and precipitates the symptoms, progress and termination of the general affection.

“The essential condition of the blood, upon which the signs and symptoms of tuberculosis depend, is still a problem. In fatal cases one or more organs, as the lungs, the brain, the mesentery, and the intestines, have generally become so far affected as to be incompatible with the continuance of life. In a future chapter the special pathology will be fully considered, and to complete the history of the disease, the influence of the various organic affections over the original disease, and in the production of the usual fatal termination, ought to be estimated; but it may here be stated, that the diseased condition of the blood, the deterioration of the circulatory and more stationary fluids and solids, the emaciation, and the failure of vital force, are of themselves, in this general disease, totally apart from any special affection of an organ fully adequate to produce such a result; and there can be no doubt that, in many instances, death is as much the consequence and the natural termination of the general disease as of disease of any vital organ.—*Edinburgh Med. and Surgical Journal*, April, 1853, p. 416.