

long time without causing inconvenience and with most satisfactory results. If symptoms of iodism present themselves, the quantity administered must be reduced to such an extent as may be necessary for their removal.

## THE ÆTIOLOGY OF TUBERCULOSIS.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. ROBERT KOCH BEFORE THE  
PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BERLIN.

TRANSLATED BY W. D. OAKLEY, M.D., (McGILL).

The discovery made by Villemin that Tuberculosis can be conveyed to animals has, as is well known, received frequent confirmation, but apparently well founded contradictions have also been made to it, so that until a few years ago, it remained undecided whether Tuberculosis were an infectious disease or not. Since, however, the inoculation in the aqueous chamber of the eye, performed firstly by Cohnheim and Solomonson, and later by Bauningarten, and further the inhalation experiments of Tappen and others have confirmed without doubt the contagious nature of Tuberculosis, a place amongst infectious diseases must in future be assigned to it.

If the importance of a malady be measured by the number of victims who perish by it, then all diseases, including the most dreaded infectious diseases, such as Pestilence, Cholera, etc., must pass into the background when compared with Tuberculosis. From statistics we learn that 1-7 of mankind die from Tuberculosis, and when nearly the mid or reproductive ages are taken into consideration, a third, and often more than a third, of these are carried off by Tuberculosis. The public have therefore sufficient reason to devote their attention to so fatal a disease, wholly apart from the fact that other circumstances, (of which merely the relation of Tuberculosis to the Perlsucht of domestic animals will be mentioned,) claim the interest of the sanitary authorities.

In the study of infectious diseases one great object of investigation with reference to the public well-being, is the elucidation to their ætiology; therefore it is our urgent duty, making use-