

ON THE COMMUNICABILITY OF TUBERCULOSIS FROM MAN TO MAN.

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I had this evening intended to take up especially the relationship of tuberculosis in the domestic animals to tuberculosis in man, but after Dr. McEachran's masterly paper I think that you, Mr. President, and all here present, will agree that such would be a work of supererogation, for in so doing I could but follow along similar lines, employ similar illustrations, and arrive at like conclusions to his. And when it is remembered that Dr. McEachran has made this subject particularly his own, that he was one of the pioneers in calling attention to the infectious nature of bovine tuberculosis, having published very conclusive evidence to this end so long ago as 1870, and that through his representations the Dominion led the civilized world by two years in scheduling tubercular cattle, I think that after his paper any disquisition from me upon this aspect of tuberculosis is unnecessary, although there are one or two details upon which later I should like to dwell for a moment.

I will therefore take up another and important aspect, namely, the infectiousness of tuberculosis as between man and man. Of this, after long years of discussion, there can now be no discussion; but it is well worth our while to call to mind the main researches upon which our knowledge of this infectiousness is based. From the fact that in the adult the most common seat of the tubercular infection is the lung tissue (indeed, as Dr. Harris, of Manchester, and others have pointed out, careful examination shows the presence of active or obsolescent tuberculosis in the lungs of from 30 to over 50 per cent. of all bodies examined in the post-mortem room of the hospitals of large cities), it is evident that the disease in the adult is most easily acquired through the respiratory tract. How, then, do the bacilli come into the inhaled air? Are they ubiquitous, do they multiply outside the body, or are they always acquired from animals or human beings suffering from the disease? Certainly they are not ubiquitous; the experiments of Cornet, to which I shall refer more fully in a few minutes, prove conclu-