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AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF THE BLOOD-SERUM OF NORMAL AND IMMUNIZED GOATS IN MODIFYING THE PROGRESS OF TUBERCULOUS INFECTION.

BY

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[From the J. H. R. Molson Laboratories for Pathology.]

One of the most important subjects, if not indeed the most important, occupying the attention of the experimental investigator in the domain of Medicine at the present time, is the discovery of some curative agent to be employed in that most dread and widespread disease to which human beings are subject—tuberculosis. For the past fifteen years some of the brightest intellects have been at work on this problem with as much zeal and hope,—albeit let us confess with more knowledge—as was ever expended by the investigators of old in the search for the philosopher's stone or the elixir of life. We have, however, reluctantly to admit, that the collective result of these most searching and extensive investigations, while beyond doubt it has increased our knowledge of the nature of the tubercle bacillus and the morbid processes induced by it, has led as yet to but little practical result. The final solution of the problem has hitherto eluded our grasp, and investigator after investigator has, like his prototype the more dramatic alchemist of the dark ages, seen the golden vision fade from his eyes when the prize was thought to be won.

The brilliant success that has crowned the efforts of experimenters to produce an antitoxic serum for diphtheria and hydrophobia, and the somewhat less valuable results that have been attained in tetanus, septicæmia, and typhoid fever, have excited the justifiable hope that a similar remedy might be devised in tuberculosis. Here, however, the

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