

THE

# MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

---

---

VOL. XXII.

JULY, 1893.

No. 1.

---

---

## Original Communications.

### ETIOLOGY OF TUBERCULOSIS.\*

BY A. D. BLACKADER, B.A., M.D.

Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics and Lecturer on Diseases of Children,  
McGill University: Physician to the Montreal General Hospital.

*Mr. Chairman*—If I understand my commands aright, I am to read a short paper on the etiology of tuberculosis from a clinical standpoint.

At the outset I must offer apologies for the somewhat disjointed character of my remarks, due to their very hurried preparation. I was only informed a few evenings past that the task of opening this part of the discussion had been allotted to me. After the very able papers by the Dean of the Faculty of Comparative Medicine on tuberculosis in cattle as affecting tuberculosis in man, and the paper by Professor Adami on the pathology of tuberculosis, my task becomes a comparatively limited one. My endeavour shall be to place before you, as briefly as possible, the more important facts connected with the origin of tuberculosis as met with by us as physicians.

We are all agreed as to the paramount importance of the tubercle bacilli in the causation of tuberculosis. Yet with many of us the idea of heredity still holds a most important place, as it is felt that no fact in our clinical experience seems less incontrovertible than the hereditary character of tuberculous disease. Careful investigation, however, indicates that this very general experience requires another explanation. Pathologists now tell us that it is the very rare exception to meet with hereditary tubercle, by the term hereditary tubercle

---

\* Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, March 17th, 1893.