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Society Proceedings.

THE MONTREAL MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

Stated Meeting, January 6th, 1893.

JAMES STEWART, M.D., PRESIDENT IN THE CHAIR.

Dr. STEWART: I would like to ask if there was any record of the length of time which lapsed after operation before these cases were reported. The majority of those cases were given as cured, but the date of the report after operation is not given. Surgeons are apt to report cases too quickly after operation; the results are called cures; but six months or three years afterwards they would not be cures.

Dr. SMITH: Twenty-three out of ninety were well twelve months afterwards; twenty-seven were well six months afterwards. The time was not given for the whole number, but one reporter states as above. Dr. Gardner's cases were reported here three years ago, and two out of the five were well one year afterwards.

I have listened with a great deal of profit and pleasure to Dr. Adams, but there are still a few things I would like to ask him. During

the discussion on Dr. Gardner's cases, the general opinion was, that the cheesy material in the tubes was the cause; they were the nidus. At the time, I thought the cheesy material was the result of the bacilli. Was I correct in supposing the cheesy deposits in the tubes the result of the destruction of tissue by bacilli?

I can appreciate the statement that irritation of the peritoneum and increased supply of blood may serve to carry off some of this inflammatory deposit; it seems both plausible and reasonable. Leucomatous deposits on the cornea are thus cured by the irritation of calomel powder. But as to washing out the abdomen accounting for the irritation in every case, in one of my cases there was no water put in, and yet the case was well one year afterwards.

Dr. Adams's statement concerning the difference in virulence of the bacilli in cattle explains very well indeed what I could not understand before—how tuberculosis of the peritoneum was so much slower in its progress than tuberculosis acquired otherwise. One more question: When one examines the miliary tubercles in the peritoneum, are the bacilli found there? or, are they destroyed by phagocytes? or, is the little tubercle composed of fibrous tissue without cells? and, in cases of cure, how does the peritoneum be after the cure? are the adhesions still devoid of a history? have the bacilli a certain life history? do they die of old age? or are they killed by phagocytes?