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ON THE STAGES AND FORMS OF SYPHILIS
WITH MORE ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE HEPATIC
MANIFESTATIONS OF THE DISEASE.¹

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It is remarkable how during all these centuries, syphilis has remained sharply distinguished from all other forms of human disease, constituting a class apart. There are many other contagious maladies, not a few chronic infectious disorders, and, now-a-days, we are able to group these together; we can recognise common principles governing their course and effects upon the organism, and can see, or think we see, a common principle underlying the morbid changes in one or other tissue from the onset of the disease to its culmination—a principle identical in the infant and in the aged. So we can with syphilis—only habitually we do not. We treat and regard it as a something distinct.

Take for instance that disease which in its chronicity as in the lesions which characterise it, most closely resembles syphilis—tuberculosis. From the onset to the end, at every stage, from the primary lesion to the most extensive generalisation of the process, we see one morbid change at work, namely, the focal multiplication of the bacilli leading to the development of tubercles. It is true that according to circumstances these tubercles may vary in their characters from a condition in which small cell infiltration is so extensive as closely to approximate to miliary abscess formation, through conditions of so-called epithelioid cell overgrowth to a state in which fibroid connec-

¹ Delivered at the meeting of the Ontario Medical Association at Toronto, June 1st, 1898.