## THE SKIRMISH AT THE OUTPOSTS

membrane that lines the whole interior of the body. You have seen him in this way gain access to the white cells' trenches, pass by the outermost sentinels without causing suspicion, and finally gain entrance to the blockhouse gland. And now, in this little fortress, is fought a most important engagement with the outposts, an engagement upon which depends the prestige of the white cells and their allies. and one which determines whether or not they remain a first-rate power. The white cell pounces upon his enemy and engulfs him; if he is able to go further and kill him by digesting him, he comes forth from battle not only victor, but a more experienced and a stronger fighter than he has ever been before. Just as you are made stronger by vanquishing an enemy or overcoming a temptation, so the white cell, through his conquest, gains something that he did not have before, and the next time the tubercle bacillus invades the body he finds the white cell and his allies more resistant, or, to use the scientific phrase, the individual has "established increased immunity." Thus you see there is a lasting advantage gained if the battle at the outposts is won. Unfortunately it works the other way as well, and if the tubercle bacilli, after being engulfed by the white cells, are able to produce a poison so virulent that it kills the latter. the story is very different.

There are all degrees of victory for the tubercle enemy in the blockhouse gland. If complete, he takes entire possession of the fortification or a series of them, cuts off the various lines of communication by blocking them with the dead bodies

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