SERUM THERAPY IN CANADA IN 1861.

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The subject of Serum Therapy, through which Dr. Freidman, of Berlin, Germany, has visited this continent, is now world wide, and so closely identified with a life saving influence, that I have pleasure in submitting to this Association, the following history of its origin:—

Nineteen years have elapsed since the formation of "The Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis," and the marked progress during that period, in staying the growth of Tuberculosis is truly most encouraging, and the evolution, in this department of Science, is of the most undoubted character. Within the past half century, Virchow, Pasteur, Koch, Lister, Wright, and Flexiner revolutionized the domain of Bacteriology, and their discoveries marked beyond doubt their well defined scientific advancement. In 1861, as physician to General Protestant Hospital, Ottawa, assisted the late Dr. Hamnet Hill in a surgical operation, and contracted blood poisoning, while at that time in a poor state of health. After several weeks of serious illness, my entire system underwent a complete change for the better, to perfect recovery, and for the past fifty years of strenuous duty in a noble profession, have not been a single day off work. Why such a remarkable change for the better should have taken place was a difficult problem. I concluded that an outside poison had nullified the influence of an inside poison in my system, which stimulated research along these lines. I then introduced into the system of patients with skin disease, the Serum of ordinary vaccine, with the most practical and convincing results, and on the 20th February, 1863, over 50 years ago, published the entire facts, Medical Times and Gazette, London, England, drawing attention to a chief point, that such data prove nothing unfavorable to the claims of vaccination as a protective agent against small-pox, they prove only that which each day's experience tends to corroborate, *"That man has still much to learn."*