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UPON THE EXISTENCE OF A MINUTE MICRO-ORGANISM
ASSOCIATED WITH CASES OF PROGRESSIVE
PORTAL CIRRHOSIS.¹

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It will be known to members of this Society that, working in 1894 and '95 in Nova Scotia, I was not only able to confirm the previous observation of Wyatt Johnston, that a very interesting disease occurring among the cattle in a district to the north of the Peninsula, was infectious and epizootic, but further, obtained from cases of this so-called Pictou Cattle Disease, a characteristic micro-organism pathogenic for rabbits and guinea pigs. This organism I found constantly in the cultures from the livers and abdominal lymphatic glands, and fairly frequently in cultures made from other organs.

The main feature of this Pictou Cattle Disease is a peculiarly extensive cirrhosis of the liver accompanied by swelling of the periportal and retroperitoneal lymph glands, with some ascites and a condition of multiple follicular ulceration of the fourth or true stomach. The ulcers are generally found in a cicatrised condition.

The first recognisable symptoms (of which the most marked is the rapid diminution in the amount of milk given off together with a peculiar bitter taste and odour of the same when heated) occur only from 24 hours to ten days before death; evidently therefore the extreme cirrhosis of the liver must have been advancing for a long period without symptoms. Death occurs most frequently with progressive weakening and paresis; in some few cases there is a period

¹ Read before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, June 20th, 1898.