

# Progress of Medical Science.

## MEDICINE.

IN CHARGE OF W. H. B. AIKINS, H. J. HAMILTON, C. J. COPP  
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### Pulmonary Tuberculosis and its Relation to Other Diseases.

Weber (*Indian Med. Record*) reviews this subject carefully. Diseases which tend to passive hyperemia of the lungs have a hindering action on the growth of the tubercle, whilst anemia of the lungs favors tuberculosis. Hence patients suffering from congenital pulmonary stenosis often die of phthisis, while those who have leakages in the mitral or aorta valves seldom fall victims to the white plague. Biel's treatment of tuberculosis of the joints by artificially produced hyperemia, has suggested the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by certain positions and local thermal methods with the object of increasing the amount of blood in the lungs. Amyloid of the liver is rarely associated with phthisis, but cirrhosis is fairly common (twenty per cent. or more), while fatty liver is found in almost every case. In the kidney we find similar conditions, the amyloid degeneration being comparatively rare, while parenchymatous, fatty and intestinal nephritis are frequent. Both gout and rheumatism seem to retard the growth of the tubercle. Great meat-eaters, too, rarely become phthisical. This would suggest an increase of meat in the diet of those young persons who are predisposed to phthisis.

It is not always true that cancer and tubercle are antagonistic. Cancer of the pharynx, oesophagus and air passages is often accompanied by tuberculosis. Tubercle so often accompanies lymphadenoma and diabetes that we almost look upon it as the natural ending of these diseases.

F. A. C.

### Heredity and Cancer.

Authorities have differed widely on this subject, but most of them agree that the probability of cancer is greater in one whose ancestry showed a history of malignant tumor, and all life assurance companies investigate this point fully. The earlier statistics seemed to show that cancer was a family disease. Paget, for example, found in 1857 from an examination of 411 patients, that there was a probable hereditary transmission in twenty-two per cent. Lichtenstern placed the figures at seventeen per cent., while nearly all other tables compiled show that a patient with a family taint is from ten to twenty per cent. more likely to have cancer.