

CANADA
MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL

JULY, 1882.

Original Communications.

THE ÆTIOLOGY OF TUBERCULOSIS.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. ROBERT KOCH BEFORE THE
PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BERLIN.

TRANSLATED BY W. D. OAKLEY, M.D., (MCGILL).

(Continued from page 655.)

To prove Tuberculosis to be a parasitic disease, caused by the growth and multiplication of the bacilli within the body, it is necessary, in the first place, to isolate the parasites and to propagate them for a long time in pure culture until they become free from every accidental disease product with which they might be associated; and, in the second place, to reproduce the entire phenomena of Tuberculosis—which we know can be accomplished through the inoculation of tubercular substances of a natural origin—by the inoculation of the isolated and artificially cultivated Tubercle Bacilli.

Passing over many initial experiments which led to the elucidation of the problem, only the completed methods will be here given. Their essential feature is the use of a stiff, transparent culture-material, which, even at the breeding temperatures, remains unaltered in consistence. In an earlier publication I have stated the advantages of this method in bacteria investigations. By its use the pure culture of the Tubercle Bacillus, not an easy matter, was accomplished.

Serum from bees' or sheep's blood was obtained as pure as possible and placed in a flask, the mouth of which is closed with