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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

### THE OXYTUBERCULINE OF HIRSCHFELDER IN THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

BY F. LEONARD VAUX, M.D.C.M. TRIN.,

Senior Asst. Phys. Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York.

When Jenner, in 1798, discovered that milkmaids who had been accidentally inoculated with cowpox were thenceforth immune to that most terrible of scourges, smallpox, he not only presented to the world its greatest therapeutic agent for the prevention of disease, but in addition laid the foundation of serum therapy. Nearly 100 years later a poor German physician, but recently graduated from the University of Berlin, sat in his small office poring over the microscope in the intervals between his few professional calls, which were rewarded by the munificent sum of sixpence. But Robert Koch was amply repaid for all his labor and self-denial when, in 1890, he announced to the world, through the columns of the *Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift*, that in his opinion, after the greatest care and research, a specific serum for the cure of tuberculosis had been discovered.

We all remember the manner in which this announcement was received, the scientific world first dubious and then exultant, the shower of honors, medals and decorations, and, above all, the fame which bade fair to make his name immortal. But that which touched his heart more than all else were the cries and prayers that came to him over the entire globe from those suffering in every conceivable manner from the Great White Plague of the North. Mothers brought their infants, and men whose lungs were but one huge cavity came also, all buoyed up with the firm belief that in Berlin a sure and certain cure awaited them.

But sadder than the coming was the going, for despair reigned in their hearts and altered their very countenances. Nor was the disappointment confined to great centres. It is safe to say that wherever modern medicine had a foothold in this globe, that there were brave and patient practitioners attending doomed yet hopeful patients, both looking forward to the hour when the savants of Europe and America should pronounce the new remedy a cure indeed, and modern enterprise have manufactured and placed it within reach of all.

Nevertheless, though the expectations of the world have not been