

used

1028/79/5

Read Jan 12 1873
Med. Soc.

CVS417/79.5

(From: An investigation into the parasites in the pork supply of Montreal. By Wm. Osler, M.D. & A. W. Clement, Veterinary Student. - Read before the Medico-Chir. Soc. of Montreal and the Board of Health. Canada Med. & Surg. J., 1882, xi, 3245) m

"Trichinosis in Canada.- Remarkably few cases of trichina infection are known to have occurred in this country. In 1869 nine persons were attacked in Montreal after eating of fried ham, which was ascertained to be trichinous. They presented severe gastro-intestinal symptoms, and the constitutional disturbance in moderate grade. None of them died. The diagnosis was corroborated by the microscopic examination of a portion of muscle harpooned from one of the patients.* In 1868, three members of a family in Hamilton were attacked after eating portions of an infected ham. Two of these, the mother and daughter, died; the father recovered. At post-mortems and in the dissecting-room, it is not uncommon to find the muscles full of calcified cysts containing the worms or their remnants. These little bodies had been recognized for years before Zenker's discovery connected them with an antecedent disease. Probably many isolated cases occur which are mistaken for acute rheumatism or typhoid fever. In between 800 and 900 autopsies made by Dr. Osler, four bodies have been found trichinous, the cysts in each instance calcified, and in one the worms were nearly all dead. In the other cases the parasites were still living, and with muscle from one of them the disease was artificially produced in a rabbit. So that in all only sixteen cases of the disease have been recognized in this country."

*Canada Medical Journal, 1870.