many tuberculous lesions are not tubercular, and many tubercular lesions have nothing to do with tuberculosis.

Perhaps the worst of it is that we keep on adding errors and monstrosities to our medical nomenclature, so that sometimes it seems more like a jargon than a language. Take the word vaccine. The word is as badly misused as the principle. Its classical parent means cow, and “vaccine” was used, of course, because cow pox was the disease transmitted by Jenner in the prophylaxis of smallpox. Certainly the present use of the word vaccination for injection of every possible sort of pathogenic bacteria, to say nothing of pollens and food proteins, has no justification on an etymological basis, and its use for all these things unrelated to the cow is an etymological bull. But, like many another atrocity of the same sort, its careless usage has become so widespread as to fix it, presumably for all time. We are, however, a little encouraged to see that some careful writers have made a slight impression on the prevalent error of speaking of deviation of complement when fixation of complement is meant. Some of these errors we owe to the Germans, who are remarkably lax in their scientific terminology, but one particularly grievous sin we get from the German literature through no fault of the Germans, namely, the literal translation of the compound adjective without rearranging it into English. From this source we get such sentences as “the blood contains bacteria destroying antibodies” when, of course, the reverse is meant, for the bacteria are destroyed, not the antibodies. We read, likewise, “albumin containing urine” or “blood destroying poisons,” phrases that shriek loudly for at least a missing hyphen if they cannot have a real English construction. Sometimes it is necessary to rewrite a dozen sentences in a single article just to get around this failure to arrange in their scientific terminology, but one particularly grievous sin we get from the German literature through no fault of the Germans, namely, the literal translation of the compound adjective without rearranging it into English. From this source we get such sentences as “the blood contains bacteria destroying antibodies” when, of course, the reverse is meant, for the bacteria are destroyed, not the antibodies. We read, likewise, “albumin containing urine” or “blood destroying poisons,” phrases that shriek loudly for at least a missing hyphen if they cannot have a real English construction. Sometimes it is necessary to rewrite a dozen sentences in a single article just to get around this failure to arrange in English form the translation of the gloriously compounded German adjective, concerning which Mark Twain wrote so lucidly and with so much feeling. As for the habitual and unlimited misuse and abuse of the words “case” by medical men and “operate” by surgeons, we have on other occasions expressed our views. The observant physician, however, is beginning to realize at least the fundamental rules governing their usage.

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