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## HEALTH MATTERS.

The last annual report of Dr. Geo. H. Duncan, Medical Health Officer of the city of Victoria, is one of very considerable importance. It was comprehensive in its character, the points being well taken and pertinently put. Some of them have, it is true, been urged time and time again. In fact there is no new gospel of health to be preached, though, as with the sinner, the individual besetment is accustomed to differ. The doctor, we are glad to notice, does not appear inclined—and we congratulate him on his persistency—to cease his warnings against the maladies which are imported from the East and those which attend the residence among us of an Oriental population. We hope he will continue to sound the alarm until he has forced the authorities—whether municipal or Dominion—to do more. On this point we recollect the admirable report made by Dr. Duncan when he returned from China and Japan, which we hope the newly-elected council will read, mark, learn and profitably digest. We cannot be too particular in this regard. We have two lines of steamships plying directly to and from the points of danger, and while the trade with them is yet comparatively small and therefore the more easy to be regulated, we trust that our sanitary arrangements will be made all that they ought to be, and moreover will be enforced in something more than a half-hearted way.

There are a number of other

topics dealt with in the report which are more local in character, but about two of them too much cannot be said. These are the proper sewerage and paving of the city—the latter particularly in the business part of the town—and the removal of the cabstand from Government street. It may and doubtless will be asked if in connection with these matters the newly-elected councillors have backbone enough to ignore the mossbackism which obtains in certain influential quarters and on the other to offend the hackmen, who are a more than ordinarily useful class, particularly at election times. We are, however, just at the present time, concerned with the matter of tuberculosis—a disease which in some of its phases is conveyed to the individual through that important everyday article of diet, milk. That there have been numerous cases among dairy herds, both on the island and mainland, is indisputable—the entire stock of one unfortunate farmer in this vicinity having, according to official reports, been destroyed. How long the disease existed where it was discovered it is perhaps difficult to say; how much mischief has been done in the community it is hard to estimate.

If the milk be as many have contended, an important medium of transmission, then gallons upon gallons of the disease have been drunk by the men, women and children of Victoria, with what effects are not now, and may never be known. What seeds of consumption and kindred diseases may there not have been sown among those who are to be the men and women of the future, to be in turn transmitted to those who will not have existence for years to come! This suggestion ought to be present with the Board of Aldermen, whose business it is to provide that sanitary recommendations and regulations are carried into effect.

The doctor suggests the in-

spection not only of the milk which is supplied to the city; but of the cattle from which it is obtained, of the buildings in which they are housed, and of those by whom they are attended. We think that these points need little, if any further demonstration after the experiences which have been had. That there were tuberculosis cattle, though their presence had long been suspected, was only discovered after the most careful scientific experiments. The outward appearance of the animals did not give them away. They produced their quota of milk and ate as usual, in no way seeming to differ from their companions. Still the disease existed. If their sheds and stables be in an unsanitary state, what is there to expect other than that disease should exist; if their attendants be afflicted with a disease that in some of its forms is common to both animals and men, can anything else be anticipated than that the contact will have mischievous results?

If the animals be badly housed or improperly fed the results are as certain as they possibly can be, and as has already been said, there is no knowing how far-reaching the mischievous effects may be. The Aldermen should pay more attention to the health of the people than they have hitherto done and we would respectfully suggest that at an early date a consultation be had, at which should be present not alone the Aldermen and Health Officers, but such of the medical profession and ordinary citizens as take an interest in sanitary matters generally. We have no outbreak of disease with which to deal; but public hygiene is one which is always in order.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA MINES.

We continually notice indications of the increasing interest that is being taken in the mines of British Columbia. One of these