

of consumption in the human family, and says there are clinical observations proving the transmission of tuberculous from animals to man through the use of this fluid.

But let us come to something more definite. Prof. Walley says: "In 1872 I lost a child in Edinburgh under circumstances which allowed but of one explanation, viz., that he had contracted mesenteric tuberculosis through the medium of milk." A Mr. Cox, of the Army Veterinary Department, England, has related the particulars of a case which led to the same conclusion; as also has Mr. Hopkins, F. R. C. V. S., of Manchester. Fleming has referred to a similar case as occurring in the child of a surgeon in the United States; and a short time ago, says Walley, a case of mesenteric tuberculosis by the imbibition of milk occurred in the child of a well known veterinary officer of the Privy Council. At a meeting of the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society, held last year, Dr. Woodhead referred to some undoubted cases of transmission to man and the pig by the medium of milk.

A few years ago in a paper, bearing upon this subject, which I had the privilege of reading before the Toronto Medical Society, I mentioned the two following cases which had then but just been recorded in the *U.S. National Health Bulletin*: One by Mr. J. Shaw, Veterinary Surgeon and Prof. of Vet. Med. in Cornwall University, in which a family cow, in Brooklyn, U. S., was found in an advanced state of tuberculosis, and the owner, one William Martin, and his wife, were rapidly sinking under the same malady; in the other case, reported by Dr. Corlies, of New Jersey, a family cow, supposed to be suffering from lung plague, was found to be afflicted with tuberculosis instead, and the owner's wife, who had been making free use of the milk warm from the cow, was suffering from the same disease, but was persuaded to give up the use of the milk, when she underwent an immediate and decided improvement.

A more striking case than any one of these was recorded in the *Medical Press and Circular* a few months ago, by Denune

of Berne, the details of which are as follows: An infant, aged four months, belonging to a family whose history was absolutely negative in regard to tubercular affections, died of tuberculosis of the mesenteric glands, a fact confirmed by a post-mortem examination. The glands alone contained the bacilli: or at least none could be found in any other part of the body. The child had been fed with the milk of a cow which was kept for the special purpose, and, for the purpose of enquiry, the animal was killed and examined. The left lung and pleura were found to be studded with tubercle, in which the bacilli were easily detected. The milk first drawn yielded but negative results bacteriologically, but the bacilli were found in portions of this fluid expressed from the deep parts of the mammary glands.

The journal alluded to regards this case as important from another point of view: as if, instead of a human infant, a calf had consumed the milk from its mother's udder, it would in all probability have become tuberculous, and the case would have been regarded as one of hereditary transmission.

According to Prof. Bang and others, the cream and butter, and also the buttermilk, from tuberculous cows has been shown to be as infective as the milk, if not more so. This is of the most serious importance of all: for although the milk and flesh can doubtless be so cooked as to be rendered safe, it is not so practicable to cook cream and butter.

Now it becomes a question—is the disease in Canada so prevalent among cows or other animals as to create alarm or uneasiness? I should say at once, although not very prevalent, it is sufficiently so, in view of all the facts which I have brought before you to-night, with others yet to be noted, to give rise to much uneasiness, and indeed, to more than this, if some decided action be not soon taken with a view of lessening the danger,—as by a system of inspection of both cows and beef, and of the education of the farming community in relation to the whole subject. I think I can bring before you evidence which would convince anyone, that now is the