

In 1888 and 1890 two British Royal Commissions were appointed to make investigations in regard to tuberculosis, and the result of their deliberations was as follows:

1. Consumption is a contagious disease.
2. Contagion is in the form of a living germ.
3. This living germ can grow and propagate only in the body of man or some of the lower animals.
4. The principal source of infection is the dried sputa from the lungs of persons already suffering from the disease. The sputa becoming dry, the tubercle germs float as particles of dust in the air, and are thus inhaled.
5. The other source of infection to man is from eating the flesh and drinking the milk of tuberculous cattle. Cooked meat destroys infection, and is not as dangerous as raw milk containing tuberculous matter, and more particularly if the animal has well-defined, ulcerated udders.

Dr. Clifford Allbutt¹ has published the opinion, that there are instances of prolonged use of tuberculous milk by many persons, old and young, without ill consequences, and this immunity depends on the constancy of the defensive machinery of the body.

In 1896 a third British commission was appointed, composed of eminent medical men and veterinary surgeons, to inquire into the most advisable and desirable means for controlling the danger through the use of the meat and milk of tuberculous animals. "The housing and general sanitation of cattle require special care and attention. Tuberculin should be supplied free by government to all owners of cattle, so that their herds could be examined at stated intervals by the tuberculin test. The infected animals should be treated according to the most advanced principles, either by isolation or by killing. Local authorities ought to take samples of milk offered for sale within their districts, and vendors should be required to give information of the source from which the milk is supplied." These methods are now in force in England, to assist in stamping out "bovine tuberculosis," and protecting the public, as far as infection is concerned.

¹ British Med. Jour., Oct. 28, 1899.