

No fact is perhaps better established than this : that a very large proportion of the diseases which affect the human family is caused by the excreta of the human body—from the lungs, skin and bowels—getting back, in a decomposing septic condition, into the body again. Most infections obtain access to the body in this way. It seems to be clearly established, too, that the re-breathing of air once breathed, as in unventilated apartments, is an essential, powerful and common pre-disposing cause of tubercular consumption. The same doubtless holds good in every respect with regard to animals, as with man. Disinfection of excreta and isolation should therefore be practiced in connection with all infectious diseases of animals, as well as with those of man.

Many complain, often to the health department, about a dirty neighbor, but heed not that another one miles away may supply them with milk, beef and poultry contaminated with the infection of scarlet fever, diphtheria or typhoid, or containing a deadly tubercular virus. Doubtless many cases of disease attributed to sewer gases are caused by animal foods contaminated by means of the unsanitary conditions with which the animals were exposed or surrounded.

Before concluding we will briefly note a few points in connection with consumption ; a disease which has been experimentally communicated from man to animals and from one animal to another, and which, it is hardly doubted by anyone, may be communicated, by means of milk or flesh, from animals to the human body. This disease causes about one-seventh of all the deaths which take place in civilized countries, and on this continent alone, every year, destroys the life of about 200,000 human beings. We have had direct communication with many prominent and experienced veterinary surgeons, of whom the almost unanimous opinion is that the disease is becoming common, increasing in frequency, among cows ; indeed, that it is increasing to an "alarming extent" among the better grades of horned cattle, which are usually confined more indoors in cold weather and are hence more exposed to infection. The almost unanimous opinion of the medical profession now is that this disease is preventable, probably as much so as any other infectious disease. Yet, in this age of humanitarianism and flourishing societies for the prevention of cruelty and preservation of life, brute and human, where is there a hand put forth to check in any special way the spread of this terribly fatal disease among either human beings or animals ?