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Public Health (Ireland) Bill.

Last month in the British Parliament the Public Health (Ireland) Bill came in for a lively discussion. The bill provides in its first clause, which is the pith of the measure, for the inspection of meat on sale in each urban district, so as to protect the consumer from diseased carcasses. The bill was required because in some districts where public slaughter houses have been erected by the local authority, the butchers have not used them and there has consequently been insufficient protection against the sale of meat unfit for human food. The power to force inspection under the bill will, it is hoped, lead to more sanitary methods of slaughter and prevent diseased, especially tuberculous, meat, being sold. Mr. Booth and Sir F. Banbury criticized the proposals of the bill, but after considerable discussion all amendments were withdrawn, the report stage passed, and the bill read a third time.

State Aid for Research.

The President of the British Local Government Board has authorized the following special researches to be paid for out of the annual grant voted by Parliament in aid of scientific investigations concerning the causes and processes of disease.

1. A research into the causes of premature arterial degeneration in man, by Dr. F. W. Andrews, pathologist to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

2. An inquiry by Dr. J. H. Thursfield, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, into the causes of death in measles.

3. A comparison by Professor Nuttall, F.R.S., Quick Professor of Biology at the University of Cambridge, of the number and kind of fleas found on rats.

4. A continuation by Dr. C. J. Lewis, of Birmingham University, of his investigation into the degree of prevalence and the characteristics of micro-organisms known as non-lactose fermenters in the alimentary canal of infants.

5. An investigation into the same subject by Dr. D. M. Alexander, of Liverpool University.

6. An inquiry by Dr. Graham Smith, of Cambridge University, into the incidence

of non-lactose fermenters in flies in normal surroundings, and in surroundings associated with epidemic diarrhoea.

7. A study by Dr. F. A. Bainbridge, of the Lister Institute, of the anaerobic bacteria in the alimentary canal of infants.

8. An investigation by Dr. Graham Smith into the possibility of pathogenic micro-organisms being taken up by the larva and subsequently distributed by the fly.

An Address at the Institute of Hygiene.

Extraordinary eccentricities of diet were recorded by W. Soltan Fenwick, M. D., in an address delivered at the Institute of Hygiene in London recently.

Various odd devices, he said, were resorted to in former days to stimulate a flagging appetite, such as the drinking of spiced wines, the dropping of coins of old metal down the back, or sometimes a little exercise or gentle altercation was indulged in between the courses to "settle the food in the stomach." It became the habit at a later period to scratch or fondle the lobe of the right ear to stimulate the flow of gastric juice, as the nerve which supplies this part of the skin has a direct connection with the great nerve of the stomach.

Every one was said to possess the stomach he deserved, and there could be no doubt, that, within certain limits, our digestions were of our own making. The stomach was the most educable organ of the body, and one could reduce its activities to a degree which was only just compatible with the preservation of life, or could train it to perform twice the amount of work which nature ever intended it to do. An average man at the age of 50 had consumed about 25 tons of food, but some people easily consumed three times that amount. They never knew when they had had enough. There was an authentic case of a little girl who had to have a keeper to prevent her from eating the household goods. One day she consumed a raw cod-fish, several pounds of candles and a quantity of butter before she was caught. A boy, when placed under observation, got through 100 pounds of raw meat in twenty-four hours. Attempts to cure this insatiable hunger invariably failed. Another lad who was shut up and kept without