

has come under my notice as yet, has the tuberculine test, if properly applied, been found to indicate a false diagnosis. I would submit therefore, in view of these facts, physicians should interest themselves for the benefit of their patients in aiding, by every means in their power, the final solution of this very vital question, as to how best we can safeguard this important food product.

VALUE OF BOVININE.

I desire to draw the attention of the profession in Manitoba and the Northwest to the therapeutic value of the above, as an external dressing to wounds, and internally as a builder up of the system. In two recent cases which came under my care, the satisfactory results in the use of Bovinine were very marked. I excised a large rodent ulcer in the region of the anus, occurring in a female aged 27. After thoroughly cauterizing it was dressed with lint saturated in Bovinine, and under this treatment the somewhat extensive wound granulated and healed rapidly.

The second case was that of a boy aged 12, on whom I operated for tuberculous disease of the hip joint. The lad was much run down from copious discharge. He was given a teaspoonful of Bovinine three times a day, and in a month had gained considerably in weight, with decided improvement in the local disease, which steadily continues. At my request Dr. Todd, one of the surgeons to the General Hospital here, tried Bovinine dressing in the cases of old indolent varicose ulcers, under which they rapidly healed.

One swallow does not make a summer or half a dozen cases prove the efficacy of a certain line of treatment, but this preparation, which is largely used in the United States, and by published cases with excellent effect, certainly merits a trial.

J. P. PENNEFATHER.

SELECTED ARTICLES.

THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

By Chas. Merrill Smith, M.B., M.C.P.S.O.,
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It is not my intention to give a dissertation on the general practitioner of ancient, mediæval, and modern times, but rather to confine myself to a few salient points which have presented themselves to me, illustrating our present condition.

Like the Gaelic "Meenister," who, when he took as his text the words, "The devil goeth about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour," divided it into three parts as follows: (1) Who the devil he was; (2) What the devil he was doing; (3) What the devil he was roaring about. I shall treat my subject under three heads, namely: (1) What he (the general practitioner) was; (2) What he is; (3) What he might be; in other words the *fuere*, the *esse* and the *posse*. I have neither the time nor ability to sketch the fathers of medicine, mythical and real, but will merely name *Æsculapius*, the pupil of *Chiron*, and his sons *Machaon* and *Podalisius*, of whom *Homer* wrote in song: "Of two great surgeons, *Podalisius* stands This hour surrounded by the Trojan bands, And the great *Machaon*, wounded in his tent, Now wants the succour which so oft he lent."—thus showing that in those days as in our times the non-combatants," as our supercilious British officers call the medical staff, did not flinch from their duty in the midst of danger. Neither shall I regale you with the histories of *Hippocrates*, *Galen*, *Avicenna* and *Celsus*, but will refer you to character sketches of the more modern physician to *Shakespeare* and *Dickens*, whose brilliant pens have immortalized the family doctor.

The great dramatist tells us in "King Lear" how disease was sold dearer than physic, as it is also in our day; for is there one here who does not know that the scoundrel who has given his last five-dollar bill to get a malady will spend \$30 in trying to evade payment of \$20? While the novelist caricatures certain types of Drs. *Sunebey*, *Jeddan*, *Blanikers*, *Kurtancunnagen*, *Prof. Muff* and the *Charlatan Marigold*, the reader will observe that