

and intimate nature especially favorable for the transmission by direct contact."

Besides, as we have repeatedly stated in this JOURNAL, such children inherit a want of stamina and powers of resisting the disease; they provide a suitable soil. And that is about all there is in heredity.

"If, then, tuberculosis is not inherited, the question of prevention resolves itself principally into the avoidance of tuberculous meat and milk and the destruction of the discharges, especially the sputum, of tuberculous individuals. As to the first means of communication, those measures of prevention alone answer the requirements which embrace the governmental inspection of dairy cows and of animals slaughtered for food, and the rigid exclusion and destruction of all those found to be tubercular. Destruction of the sputum is, of course, a greater practical difficulty, because neither the patients nor the public as yet understand its importance, but the report ingeniously suggests that the self-interest of the former may be enlisted; consumption, it contends, is 'a distinctly curable disease.' 'An individual well on the road to recovery may, if he does not with the greatest care destroy his sputum, diminish greatly his chances of recovery by self-inoculation.' The necessity for thorough ventilation of churches, theatres

and other places of public assembly is touched upon, and a very decided opinion is expressed that 'steamship companies should be obliged to furnish separate apartments for consumptive persons, so that no person in the exigencies of travel need be forced to share his room with one who might be a source of active danger to him.'

In rooms the expectoration should be received in pasteboard or wooden cups, and the cups and contents burned every day. In the streets the only practicable means for its collection seems to be in handkerchiefs, which, when soiled, should at the earliest possible moment be soaked in a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid, and then boiled and washed. Handkerchiefs thus soiled are exceedingly dangerous factors in distributing tubercle bacilli, for when the sputum becomes dry it is easily separated in flakes from the cloth, and then soon becomes pulverised and suspended as dust.

It becomes evident, from what has been said, that the means which will most certainly prevent the spread of this disease from one individual to another are those of scrupulous cleanliness regarding the sputum. These means lie largely within the power of the affected individual.

---

#### THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL ON TUBERCULOUS MEAT AND MILK.

WHATEVER may be the result of the Glasgow diseased meat trial, the inquiry involved will have served a most beneficial purpose if it draws attention to the extremely lax supervision of dead meat markets that obtains in most, if not all, our large cities. As the decision of the judge, Sheriff Berry, has not yet been given, and as counsel is still to be heard on June 17th, it will be well to refrain from making any special reference to the Glasgow case, but the general subject is too important to allow of its being passed over, at the present juncture, without a strong protest being entered against the existing most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

It may be taken for granted that the record of Koch's observations on the causation of tuberculosis and on the life history of the tubercle bacillus has proved a basis on which a new and certainly much more intelligent and intelligible pathology of

tuberculosis may be founded. Such a pathology opens up questions which, in their bearing on public health, are of prime importance—questions that can only be settled after long and laborious investigation and most minute and accurate observation. \* \* \*

In such a matter as the possibility of transmission of tuberculosis to man from cattle by alimentation, it is better to err on the side of too great credulity. There is a great question of public health involved, and, whatever may be the ultimate action of legislators, there can be no doubt that sufficient evidence has already been adduced to justify the drawing up of most careful regulations as to the sale of meat or milk from cattle affected with tuberculosis. At present numerous avoidable factors are at work interfering with the thorough putting into practice of scientific advice on the subject. In the first place, there is no adequate inspection of