

Many classes of the feathered race, I may here observe, are very prone to this disease: especially the common fowl, pigeon, partridge and other grain-eating birds. Dr. T. W. Mills, Professor of Physiology, McGill University, at the last December meeting of the Montreal Medical-Chirurgical Society, exhibited specimens from a tuberculous pigeon, a white Jacobin, bred by himself, which had died two days previously. The bird had been ill only three weeks, and was fairly well-nourished at death. The tubercles were very widely distributed, the organs inflamed, and bound together by recent adhesions. Owing to enlargement of the organs and pressure, the apex of the heart was squeezed to such an extent that it must have become functionless. Dr. Mills stated that no doubt many birds offered for sale on the market were subjects of tuberculosis.

Now it may be argued that there is no direct proof of the transmission of tubercle from animals to man by the consumption of flesh and milk. "Such proof, it need scarcely be said," argues Prof. Walley of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh, "cannot for manifest reasons be obtained, but the mass of indirect proof in favor of such supposition is enormous." But he adds, very recently a most striking example of the effect of consuming the flesh of a tuberculous animal has been brought to light by a French physician in the case of a young woman who rapidly became consumptive as the result of eating the imperfectly cooked bodies of tuberculous fowls.

The flesh of tuberculous animals has evidently been suspected as dangerous from the earliest records. On the authority of Lydian, Fleming, and Van Herten, there existed in the Mosaic laws strict legislative rules condemnatory of the flesh of an animal affected with this disease. The laws embodied in the "M'schna" (the oldest part of the Talmud) distinctly refer to the prohibition of the use of such flesh. From that time onwards various ordinances have been instituted with the object of checking the use of consumptive flesh, especially in France and the German States, and even

in Spain, Italy and Switzerland: and severe punishment has at different times been inflicted upon butchers and others who have wilfully sold such flesh for human food.

That the milk of tuberculous cows is dangerous there is more conclusive evidence than that the flesh is dangerous. Long before Koch's discovery of the tubercle bacillus it had been accidentally and experimentally demonstrated that milk was infective by ingestion to calves and other young animals: and, as Prof. Walley observes, there is a mass of evidence in favour of the view that by this vehicle the germs of the disease are conveyed from the cow to the human subject. The question of the infection of tuberculosis being conveyed by milk is of greater importance than is infection by flesh; for the two-fold reason that the former is so largely consumed by infants, and generally in an uncooked state. The danger of contamination by milk will be more clearly comprehended when it is known that the tubercle bacillus can be readily detected in the lactiferous product of animals in whose udders tubercular lesions exist; and also, as has been shown by Professor Bang of Copenhagen, in women in whose breasts the disease existed. Of the six hundred cows examined by Dr. Woodhead and Prof. McFadyean, already referred to, in six cases they demonstrated the presence of tubercle bacilli in the milk.

Prominent physicians both on this continent and in Europe maintain that tuberculosis is often imparted to human subjects by milk from diseased cows; and Prof. Bollinger, in a paper read not long ago in Munich, has sustained their position. He said that repeated experiments show that the milk of tuberculous beasts has a very decided contagious influence, and its noxious properties cannot always be expelled by boiling. The professor enjoined upon by farmers the necessity of taking the strictest care of their stock, and upon people generally the greatest care as to the quality of milk they use. Prof. D. E. Salmon, of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, declares his belief that tuberculous milk is an exceedingly prolific source