

## HUMAN AND ANIMAL TUBERCULOSIS

The Question Settled By The Royal Commission  
On Tuberculosis.

**T**HE second interim report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, appointed on August 23rd, 1901, has now been issued. The commissioners were the late Sir Michael Foster K. C. B., F. R. S. (chairman), Professor German Sims Woodhead, Professor Sidney Harris Cox Martin F. R. S., Sir John McFadyean, and Sir Rubert William Boyce F. R. S.

The commissioners summarize the bearings of the results at which they have already arrived in these words:

"There can be no doubt but that in a certain number of cases the tuberculosis occurring in the human subject, especially in children, is the direct result of the introduction into the human body of the bacillus of bovine tuberculosis; and there also can be no doubt that in the majority at least of these cases the bacillus is introduced through cows' milk. Cows' milk containing bovine tubercle bacilli is clearly a cause of tuberculosis and of fatal tuberculosis in man.

"Of the 60 cases of human tuberculosis investigated by us, 14 of the viruses belonged to group I—that is to say, contained the bovine bacillus. If, instead of taking all these 60 cases, we confine ourselves to cases of tuberculosis in which the bacilli were apparently introduced into the body by way

of the alimentary canal, the proportion of group I becomes very much larger. Of the total 60 cases investigated by us, 28 possessed clinical histories indicating that in them the bacillus was introduced through the alimentary canal. Of these, 13 belong to Group I. Of the nine cases in which cervical glands were studied by us, 3, and of the 19 cases in which the lesions of abdominal tuberculosis were studied by us, 10 belong to Group I.

"These facts indicate that a very large proportion of tuberculosis contracted by ingestion is due to bacilli of bovine source.

"A very considerable amount of disease and loss of life, especially among the young, must be attributed to the consumption of cows' milk containing tubercle bacilli. The presence of tubercle bacilli in cows' milk can be detected, though with some difficulty, if the proper means be adopted, and such milk ought never to be used as food. There is far less difficulty in recognizing clinically that a cow is distinctly suffering from tuberculosis, in which case she may be yielding tuberculous milk. The milk coming from such a cow ought not to form part of human food, and, indeed, ought not to be used as food at all.

"Our results clearly point to the necessity of measures more stringent than those at present enforced being taken to prevent the sale or consumption of such milk."

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