

in general in inverse proportion to the gravity of the disease and in direct proportion with the intensity of the resistance. 5. The study of the agglutination in tuberculous pleurisy leads to important prognostic conclusions.



Dirt and Danger in the Market.

Writing on the food question in the June *Delineator*, Mary Hinman Abel makes the statement that "Dirt in contact with food is doing more harm than all the preservatives and coal-tar colors, for in the popular understanding of that word, dirt covers dust and all that is in it; all that results from contact with insect or other animal life, and whatever is breaking up into simpler compounds under the action of bacteria, or what is decayed and diseased. The tubercle bacillus is known to exist in street dust. The tetanus or lock jaw bacillus is also found, and many others of local origin. How many cases of 'sporadic' typhoid fever are due to infected food, is not easy to say. The sources of disease are often very difficult to trace, but fruit that has been gathered by dirty hands, carted through dusty streets in open baskets or brought long distances in open freight cars, stored in market cellars, repeatedly sorted by the huckster, and exposed for sale after a polishing on a dirty coat sleeve, has had at least a chance of dangerous germs gathering, for in all dirt are

countless organisms, and some of them are harmful to men.

"What is to be done to remedy these conditions that exist to greater or less extent in all our cities and towns?" Mrs. Abel asks, and answers: "We must have—1. Better market inspection and cleaner streets. 2. Better protection for food in transit and when on sale, with careful screening to keep out dust and insects. 3. The consumer must be better instructed as to the danger of infected food and come to feel a citizen's responsibility for improving conditions. 4. Fruits and vegetables must be properly cleansed in the kitchen."



Ætiology of Rheumatism. An article on the Aetiology of Acute Rheumatism, by Dr. Lewis Fox Frissell, appears in the *New York Medical Record* of May 12th. He reviews past work in the bacteriology of this condition, and records the results of his own investigations. After failure to obtain from joints or nodes (of erythema nodosum) an organism which seemed likely to have a causal relationship to rheumatism, he turned his attention to the tonsil as the probable portal of entry, making cultures from cases of tonsillitis occurring in the course of a rheumatic attack. These cultures, of course, were mixed growths, but after much searching Frissell isolated a bacterium which produced a constant