

There were over 300 deaths. It was proved that the outbreak was due to infected milk which came from two small places in Wisconsin, where there were cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever, namely, Basset Station and Genoa Junction. The former is a dairy-farming district where for months scarlet fever had been prevalent, yet milk was regularly shipped without warning of any kind to Evanston and Chicago.

In connection with this Chicago epidemic, it is worth noticing that in the bottling house of one of the largest dairy companies in the world, a man was found working visibly suffering from scarlet fever, the characteristic rash being present in the skin. Milk was also being received by the same company from two farms in which there were cases of scarlet fever.

Similar reported serious milk epidemics of scarlet fever occurred in Buffalo, 1899, London, Eng., 1901, and in Salem, Mass., in 1901.

As to diphtheria the medical literature of recent years contains many reports of milk-borne outbreaks. Mention of two or three of these will be sufficient for our present purpose.

In 1893, a small epidemic occurred in Lund, Sweden, when eight persons in different families became sick with diphtheria. These cases were traced to the use of milk from a farm near Lund; at this farmhouse two of the inmates were found to be infected with diphtheria.

Quite an extended epidemic occurred in 1886, in Frimly, England; in the course of a few days 70 cases of diphtheria occurred distributed in more than 30 families, 15 cases being fatal. All the sick had received milk from the same dairy. Not one case of diphtheria occurred during this time among consumers using milk from other dairies.

Another report is that from Ashtabula, Ohio, where 100 persons became affected with diphtheria in December, 1894. The houses in which the disease occurred were widely separated, but milk was taken at all of them from the same dairyman. On the farm of this dairyman a workman had a very sore throat, probably diphtheritic. This person had assisted in the work of the dairy while suffering acutely from sore throat. Of 44 households investigated, it was found that 32 had received milk directly from this sick person, the other 12 had received milk from the same dairy but it had been delivered by another man.

Dr. N. Flindt has given a detailed account of a diphtheria epidemic borne by milk from a co-operative dairy at Holbeak, in which 51 patients were infected in July, 16 cases the following month, and 6 more in September. This case is remarkable, in that the milk appears to have been contaminated for quite a long period.