

concur in producing it." But the use of unboiled water contaminated with human excrement is probably the most frequent of all causes. While, therefore, great credit may be given to perfected systems of sewer building, to the improvement of old and unhealthy quarters of cities, the sanitary inspection of lodgings and dwellings, and the use of disinfecting machines in destroying the germs of typhoid fever, it must be candidly admitted that an overwhelming mass of evidence points to the fact that this essentially human and endemic disease is principally introduced into the alimentary canal by the liquids which people consume. If, therefore, typhoid fever is to be reduced in a municipality, in addition to protecting the source of supply from contamination, the M. H. O. should examine the supply regularly and if biological examination shows an excess of bacteria the inhabitants should be notified to have the potable water boiled before using it.

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#### EPIDEMIC BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS.

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Statistics go to prove that one-seventh of the whole human race is annually sacrificed by tuberculosis, and that no epidemic, in ancient or modern times, has caused the death of even one-tenth of the number of human beings. With such facts before us, it behooves us to ascertain whether there may be any special means of propagating this disease. Of late years attention has been drawn to the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis, and statements have been made by Johne, Ernst, Brush and others as to the communicability of the disease from animals to man; Professor Walley going as far as to say "that he had not the slightest doubt that it was communicable from animals to man and from man back again to animals in every possible shape and form."

A special report on the diseases of cattle, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, states that "the germs enter the body (1) by inhalation into the lungs, (2) by the digestive tract (by milk and fodder), (3) during coition, when the sexual organs are tuberculous, (4) from a tuberculous mother to her fœtus. Inhalation is by far the most common mode of infection."

Bacilli can only get into the lungs when inhaled. It is well known that the bacilli withstand drying for months before they lose their power of infection. If dried and pulverized, they are carried by currents of air to great distances.

Milk is found to be largely infected by the tubercle bacillus, and deaths have been recorded of persons drinking of it. Stabled animals are more liable than others.

In view of these facts, we learn with regret of the epidemic of tuberculosis at the Ontario Dairy Farm at Guelph. We feel that the responsible head of the Department has much to answer for in permitting the introduction of diseased cattle in the first place, and for neglecting to properly isolate them in the second. We hope that measures will be promptly taken to stamp out the disease, and that the stables will be thoroughly disinfected, bearing in mind the longevity of the germs. Public health, as well as commercial interests, demands radical measures.

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#### EXPERT MEDICAL TESTIMONY.

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Expert testimony on all subjects is constantly increasing in frequency and importance in our courts. It is only natural and right that such experience and knowledge may be sought and obtained as will enable the court to arrive at a just conclusion. The expert witness, however, is not in the same position as other witnesses, nor has he the same