

infected with tuberculosis put into the ground may serve as a focus from which many cases may occur. The burial in the ground does not kill the bacillus or even materially weaken it; the earth-worms, feeding on the body, ingest the bacilli and spores and carry them to the surface of the earth, there to be taken up by the animals browsing on the grass, or possibly the worms are eaten by birds. This danger may be far-fetched, but it is not altogether imaginary, and is a strong plea for cremation in this as in other infectious diseases.

Do we not read of the "accursed fields" where the sheep died by scores from anthrax, simply because the earth had become contaminated with the virus of this disease through the burial of the bodies of animals dead from anthrax! When we think this over, does it not seem possible that the same may take place with tuberculosis, to some extent at least! Surely this means of prevention should not be neglected in regard to all dead animals affected with any of the protean forms of tubercle.

This discussion, we trust, will make our readers reflect on the responsibility which rests with them as medical practitioners, the responsibility of spreading a knowledge of the causation of this disease and of the means to prevent it. People have been educated up to take precautions against the spread of small-pox and scarlatina, so why not against a disease which is infinitely more fatal than either of these? Let everyone remember the old proverb: "Prevention is better than cure."

CERTIFICATION OF THERMOMETERS.

The Secretary of the Observatory of Yale University makes the following remarks about the results of the examination of the thermometers submitted to them:—

"It continues to be true that only a small percentage of the instruments sold are sent to us for examination. It is presumably true, also, that those which are sent here for certification, by the manufacturers, are carefully selected, and, therefore, far more reliable than the average of those sold without certification. Nevertheless, we are sometimes compelled to reject