

ANOTHER Royal Commission on tuberculosis was appointed on July 22nd, consisting of Lord Basing, Dr. George Buchanan, F.R.S., Principal Medical Officer to the Local Government Board, Dr. J. Frank Payne, Lecturer on Pathology at St. Thomas's Hospital, Prof. Burdon Sanderson, F.R.S., and Prof. Brown, C.B., of the Agricultural Department. The instructions to the Commission are "To inquire and report what is the effect, if any, of food derived from tuberculous animals on human health; and, if prejudicial, what are the circumstances and conditions with regard to the tuberculosis in the animal which produce that effect upon man." The Commission is to take evidence, and is given a roving commission to visit and personally inspect such places as may be "deemed expedient." &c.

THE British Medical Journal says of the Commission (Royal, on Tuberculosis) that a great deal of information has already been accumulated by physicians, pathologists, sanitarians, and veterinarians, but there are still some hiatus the Commission may find it necessary to supply in the investigations conducted under its direction. This JOURNAL would add that, if all legislators would but act more promptly, as they have recently done in France for example, on Medical "findings," reports, and commissions there would be much more practical use in such commissions.

THE EVIDENCE just given by Dr. Bell, the principal of the Laboratory of the Inland Revenue Department, before Sir Lyon Playfair's Committee on British and Foreign spirits fully confirms the accuracy of the results of a special analytical inquiry conducted for the British Medical Journal some years ago, that the statement frequently made as to the adulteration of alcoholic beverages are unfounded. The chemical changes which attend the maturing of whisky, and the conditions which determine them are not yet fully understood, though they consist, in part at least, in a breaking up of the fusel oil into aromatic ethers, but it would appear that this does not always occur to the same extent in different samples of whisky kept under similar conditions. In one sample of three-year old whisky examined for the Inland Revenue Department none of the fusel oil had disappeared. A good deal of difference could be detected between the products of different

distilleries; but it was said that roughly speaking the mellowing of whisky depends upon the amount of fusel oil present when first made.

IN THE British House of Lords last month, in the discussion of the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act relating to the "Housing of the Working Classes," Earl Compton said: "Landlords and house-farmers who were responsible for the insanitary condition of many of these dwellings ought to be subject to imprisonment and not merely to a fine." In reply Mr. Bartley said that a certain amount of the insanitary condition of the dwellings was due to the tenants themselves. If the penalty were made too severe upon landlords it would tend to make the best class of landlords avoid that kind of property. No doubt the present state of things was unsatisfactory, but enormous improvement had taken place. The sanitary condition of the people could not be improved except by improving the education and ideas of the people themselves.

CORSETS were the subject of invective by most of the lady speakers at a meeting in London last month at which was organized a "Dress Reform League"; so the Sanitary Record states. The Record adds, however, "it will be a very long time before this article of apparel disappears from human sight, and after all, if judiciously used, it is not the terrible monster usually portrayed."

THIS has always been the contention of this JOURNAL. The Corset has contributed greatly to a graceful human form: but there are many people who will abuse the best gifts to mankind. Ball's Elastic health corset, probably the best made, judiciously worn, is a useful article of apparel and cannot, so worn, do any harm.

A SOCIETY of clergymen of Topeka, Kan., passed resolutions opposing the custom on the part of pall-bearers and friends, of uncovering the head at the commitment of bodies to the grave, and requested the local medical society for their opinion on the matter. The society of course unanimously endorsed the ministers' views.

"PUBLIC OPINION, we think," says the New York Medical Journal, "will hardly permit another criminal to be executed in this manner"—i.e. in that which terminated the life of Kemmler.