

A short time ago an important contribution has been given to the world by Drs. Max Koch and Robinowitsch. The main feature of this work is on the avian type of tuberculosis. It may be very interesting to review some of the conclusions arrived at by the authors.

In the first place they show that in 459 cases examined the organs mainly involved are the lungs and the peritoneum. The changes are somewhat similar to the caseation found in the Mammalian group of animals. Birds are infected mainly by feeding them with tubercular matter. They are not very liable to be infected by inhalation. There is strong evidence advanced in support of congenital infection. Infection may be carried in Zoological Gardens by rats and mice, when in the home caged birds may contact the disease from man. The bacilli in some instances were distinctly of the human type.

In many instances the found bacilli showing every shade of variation in form the avian to the bovine. The virulence of the bacilli varied considerably to guinea pigs and rabbits. Rats and mice were infected with bacilli obtained from birds.

A very important point is brought out in this work, namely, that cattle and goats may be infected. Spontaneous infection of mice, rats, horses, pigs, cattle, and monkeys by avian bacilli have been observed. Man has yielded bacilli which have been shown to be identical with the avian type.

This exhaustive study of tuberculosis goes very far towards proving that the human, bovine, and avian types of tubercle bacilli may change by easy gradations into each other.

MILK AND TUBERCULOSIS.

It is now becoming settled scientifically as well as clinically that tuberculosis in man, cattle, and birds is one and the same disease. It is quite true that the bacilli may undergo some modifications by their sojourn in any one of these hosts, but they are essentially the same still and will infect any of the other forms of animal life. This makes the subject of the milk supply a question of the utmost importance.

Acting under the authority of the Health Act of Britain, the Lister Institute examined 92 samples of milk taken at random from various vendors. Of this number no less than 22 or 23.9 per cent. were found to contain tubercle bacilli. As a result of this a veterinary surgeon visited some of the farms from which the milk came and found ten cows with tubercular udders.

It does not require a Solon to see what should be done. It is well known that many cows are suffering from tuberculosis and yet retain the