

INFECTION OF MAN FROM THE LOWER ANIMALS.

The probability of the transmission of the disease from animal to man rests on the following points: (1) the disease is the same in man and animal; (2) man is very susceptible to the disease; (3) animals which are much less susceptible than man become affected by experimental inhalation, ingestion, and inoculation. It is, therefore, a fair deduction that man may become affected by the same methods. Practically, it might be said, it must be by one or other of these methods, although not experimentally. This is supported by an ever-increasing number of recorded cases in which man seems to have been infected from the lower animals: but, as might be expected, owing to the impossibility of experimenting on many, direct proof is somewhat scanty.

The Committee give evidence to show that the disease may be communicated from animals to man by inhalation and by ingestion of milk or meat, most of which has been already given in this JOURNAL.

The Committee then draw attention to two points that have much impressed

them:—First, a generally prevailing idea of the insanitary condition of dairies, byres, etc., and of the unhealthy lives that many of our domesticated animals are compelled to live, reacting on the health of the community. Secondly, the expressed opinion of many authorities that the licensing and inspection of dairies, byres, etc., should be rigid and frequent, and that only public abattoirs should exist, where every carcass sold to the public as food should be carefully examined.

The Committee also express the opinion:—First, that there is no doubt of the danger of drinking the unboiled milk of cows whose udders are tubercular; that there is a risk, even when the udders present no manifest lesion, if the animal is diseased elsewhere. Secondly, that there is a certain amount of danger in allowing the flesh of an animal affected with local tuberculosis to be sold for consumption.

The Committee conclude their full and valuable report by a resolution "disapproving of the practice of allowing any part of the carcass of an animal, which has been shown to have been affected with tuberculosis, to be sold as sound and wholesome meat."

PARLIAMENT AND CANADA'S HIGH INFANTILE MORTALITY.

THE abnormal and enormous death-rate amongst children in many of the cities and towns of Canada is a standing reproach to the Dominion. It may be said that this high infantile mortality is only to be found in Quebec; but even in Toronto not much short of one half of the total number of deaths recorded are of children under five years of age, while in Ottawa the proportion is considerably over half, and in Montreal, Hull, Sorel and Winnipeg, in 1887, it was little short of two-thirds. Now this is simply appalling, or ought to be. It is in excess of that of almost any other country. It is true that amongst the French-Canadian population the birth-rate is high, but not correspondingly so. No such condition exists among any of the lower animals.

If it were found that such proportion of any of the domestic animals died before reaching a fourth part of their age of maturity what would be the consequence? One can easily imagine the effect on the public and on our legislators on behalf of the public. The great machinery of parliament would be at once set in motion with the object of preventing the great destruction of animal life.

Either the large proportion of infantile life which is now annually destroyed in Canada should never come into existence or it should be preserved. As an excellent authority, Dr. Love, (prof. of disease of children, Col. of Phys. and Surg., St. Louis, Mo.) says: "Under proper conditions, the period of growth being antagonistic to decay, man, in the infantile state