

The Truth About Tuberculosis.

In an interesting interview with H. A. McCallum, M.D., M.R.C.P., of London, Ontario, recently published in the *Advertiser* of that city, as to his views of Dr. Koch's late deliverance, the Doctor said:

"Only after one has read the whole article of Dr. Robert Koch that was delivered before the international congress on tuberculosis, held recently in London, Eng., can any opinion be offered upon his verdict on the disunity of human and bovine tuberculosis. There has always been a diversity of opinion upon this subject, and his experiments, while not the first, are the most elaborate and masterly ever undertaken for the solution of this problem. It must be first stated that he himself does not wish to declare final judgment, but calls for other investigations. No living physician has a right to call in question either the ability or honesty of this man. He is virtually one of the founders of modern bacteriology; his contributions outweigh all others put as one. His facts have always proved scientifically true, and only as a physician has he failed, viz., in his predictions on the curative action of tuberculin. A careful sifting of the evidence upon which he offers opinion that human and bovine tuberculosis are dissimilar diseases will lead one to agree that his provisional judgment on the matter is both sane and passionless. The whole interest of his article turns on this judgment. If his view is not true, then is human tuberculosis very feebly contagious and infectious. On the other hand, if his view is correct, then must we cease the needless cattle slaughter indulged in by some authorities. We can also composedly partake of beef, milk and butter without any method of sterilization. One cannot avoid the conclusion that if cattle are immune to tuberculosis, raw beef and fresh milk contain the very defensive proteids which human victims need to defend themselves, and even effect a cure. Indeed, it is possible that one day these products will be isolated, and may therefore be taken in such large quantities as to cure tuberculosis as easily as quinine cures malaria. The battle against tuberculosis will be concentrated and simplified by the removal from the field of one enemy, viz., bovine tuberculosis.

"The cooking of beef and pasteurization of milk destroy these defensive bodies in the food, and the consumptive in any event should take his milk raw and fresh as possible.

"Coming to the question of sanatoria for consumptives, one must not forget that such institutions will care for a very small percentage of the victims, and the regulations of admitting only the very early cases will almost destroy their usefulness. There has spread in the medical profession of this continent a wide belief that 'home treatment,' on the plan of the best sanitariums, is the wisest method to follow. The whole question, as pointed out by Dr. Clifford Allbut, is one of bossing the patient. The great unbossed are worse than 'the great unwashed.' Unless a physician can be master in the amount and kind of food taken, the hours of exposure to fresh air and other details, his service to a tubercular patient is lost. Let a patient become obedient to the directions of his physician, and the modern treatment of consumption at home can work wonders, and as it can begin early, better results can be had than in sanitariums. On the other hand, those who pay more heed to the laboratory work of their stomachs than its assimilation power, had better be in institutions where example and constant supervision may correct the error of their ways.

"The danger of contagion has lately so filled the minds of the public that individuals are alarmed to associate at the same desk with the consumptive bread-winner; and trained nurses shrink from attendance on the sick tubercular patient. There is practically no danger in associating with a consumptive who knows how to care for his sputum. The sputum of hundreds of people in every city who are apparently healthy contain tubercular germs, and no law should be enforced unless it bears on all alike, viz., sick and well.

"Surgery, we are frequently told, has made wonderful advances in the last 25 years, yet a review of the subject of tuberculosis in the same period will show that medicine has made similar strides.

"Ten years ago, under the most skilled hands, less than fifteen per cent. of early tuberculosis was curable. By the modern method it is now established that fifty per cent. of early cases are practically cured. Similar improvement has taken place in the treatment of typhoid, diphtheria and many other diseases. Can one wonder at the frequent prophecy that cancer and tuberculosis will be completely mastered in the next twenty-five years."

Simple Fly Repellent.

Mr. Wm. Murdock, farm manager at London Asylum, finds no difficulty in keeping the dairy herd of over 40 cows free from fly attack by applying once a week, with a brush, crude fish oil, one gallon, mixed with two tablespoonfuls of pure carbolic acid. A little of this mixture goes a long way when carefully applied to all parts troubled with the flies.

Good Beasts Always Cheap.

A good beast is always cheap, no matter what price—within reason—is paid for it. And conversely, a bad beast is always dear, even though it may be obtained at a seemingly cheap price. This has been proved over and over again, not only in elaborately-conducted experiments, but in the experiences of our best feeders. If they can at all help it, our best graziers will never touch an inferior beast, even though they can get it at what might seem a ridiculously small price in comparison with that which they have to pay for well-bred, thrifty-looking animals. The reason for this is that these men have found out by experience that even though such animals may appear cheap at the time of purchase, they do so badly when put upon the grass that they give very little return for their keep. A good beast under the same conditions, though he may cost a few pounds more at the time of purchase, will thrive so well and put on flesh at such a rate that he will finish weeks—sometimes months—before the indifferent doer, and when he is finished he will fetch a price which will leave a much bigger margin for the time he has been on grass than his less thrifty companion. This applies to all classes of stock—to sheep and pigs as well as to cattle. —*Farmer's Gazette.*

FARM.

Prizes for Photographs.

In our Home Department of this issue, several handsome prizes are offered for the best amateur photographs of country scenes. We direct the attention of all interested in photography to this interesting competition, the conditions of which should be carefully read. We trust that many will compete.

A Dry Time.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The annual dry time has already set in, with its sultry nights and its scorching days, when the flies multiply a hundredfold and crowd in myriads upon the cattle, eager for food, sapping their flesh and exhausting their strength in their increasing efforts to shake off their tiny torturers.

We had reason to expect that July or, at latest, August would bring such a season, because we have had it year after year, but the question is, were the farmers and stockmen prepared for this dry spell? We answer, no! Some did, it is true, make a partial preparation by sowing some early grain for green feeding, but by going to your milk record or your cheese factory you will see that the flow of June has fallen nearly one half. Why? For want of foresight or knowledge. All make ample preparation for their stock during winter, so that many herds come out in spring fatter, sleeker and healthier than they were when they left the pastures in autumn. Why is this? Because the owners knew winter was coming, and prepared warm quarters, with plenty of fresh air and sunlight, also a copious supply of succulent food, rivaling in quality and wholesomeness the grass of May itself. This is preparation! But look at the many herds in their pastures to-day—they are getting poorer and have failed in their milk nearly one half and are still failing. The owners cannot help it now, because they made no preparation. We know when the flow of milk in the dairy herd shrinks the returns in dollars fail in proportion, and to make the loss more serious, a cow when once she starts to fail cannot be made to regain her usual flow throughout the season. The progressive dairyman knows this, and in early spring he sows some peas and oats near the stables, and these he forces ahead by a liberal application of barnyard manure. Also, he plants some corn near by to feed a little later. Then, even before the dry time comes, before the cows begin to shrink, he gives his herd a green feed once or perhaps twice a day. A little will do at first, gradually increasing in quantity as his pastures fail.

Then he knows that if his cows cannot lie down quietly and chew their cuds, they will fail, no matter what or how much he feeds them. So he either has a small grove where they can be in the shade, or he allows them to come into their darkened stables for rest and quiet at noon. Again, he knows that it takes a large quantity of food to produce blood enough to feed so many hundreds of flies, so instead of feeding the extra food, he endeavors to dispense with flies as a domestic insect by spraying his cattle daily with something either fatal or so distasteful to insects that they prefer leaving the cows in peace.

Spraying and green feeding need only last for a time, as the early October rains produce an abundance of grass again, and the cold nights are unhealthy for the Texans.

Many dairymen are following the advice so frequently given in the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, in doing away with much of their pasture, preferring to grow a green crop and feeding indoors during the dry, sultry days of July and August. Farmers should take note and be prepared against our annual dry seasons. W. T. F. Grenville, Co.

From London to Aylmer, Ont.

The stretch of agricultural country in the Counties of Middlesex and Elgin extending from London to the thriving town of Aylmer ranks among the finest in Canada. Under improving methods of cultivation, the soil for the most part produces generous crops, but the main output of the farms takes the form of dairy products, hogs, cattle and other stock. Driving through this district a few days since, one of the editors of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* noted many signs of prosperity, especially in the improvements that are being made to farm buildings, especially the barns. Fewer pretentious dwellings are being erected than at one time, the aim now being to secure comfort and convenience without extravagance. This is wise. Mortgaging a farm to erect a castle upon it is a very risky policy. Some better and more uniform system of fencing and more uniformity in the size and shape of fields would greatly improve many farms. In all directions there is apparent the need for the planting of more trees, such as maples, walnuts, and spruce.

The harvest in this area is practically over, and threshing has begun. The fall-wheat crop was light, probably little better than half a yield, owing mainly to the Hessian fly, and less will be sown this season than heretofore. For various reasons, wheat-growing through this district is not the success that it once was. Even absolutely "new" land, broken from the sod, and wheat following peas, does not give anything like the yield that formerly could be counted on with certainty. The destruction of the forests, exposure to sweeping winds, irregular winter weather, periods of drought, the rapid rushing away of the water after rains—all seem to be having an unfavorable effect upon the land. The fertility is still there, the problem is how to unlock and reproduce it in the plant. For successful wheat production there must also be a particularly fine tilth of soil to begin with, and, besides that, humus, moisture, and a steady snow covering in winter.

The oat and barley crops were fairly good, but the grain is light per bushel, owing to rapid maturing in the excessively hot spell about July first. We noticed but two fields of peas in the entire drive, so that "pea-fed bacon" will not be much in evidence next winter. It always was a good deal of a misnomer. The hay crop was heavy and was saved in excellent condition. The appearance of the root crops is disappointing, a fact to be regretted. Mangel and turnip cultivation is not receiving the attention their merits warrant. "Not that we grow roots less, but corn more," should be our policy. Early potatoes were small and few in a hill, but later ones will be better. Corn, steadily increasing in popularity with the dairy farmer and cattle feeder, is growing luxuriantly, and promises an immense crop. The questions of varieties and methods of cultivation are getting to be better understood, so that uniformly large crops are counted on with certainty. A good deal of it will be needed as supplementary feed for cows during summer and early fall, as the pastures are beginning to fail seriously. The frequency of summer drought also brings many dairy farmers face to face with the imperative problem of a reliable water supply, which is necessitating deep wells and wind power to fill the troughs.

The first cutting of clover being taken off early, second growth came on rapidly and the blossoms are already turning brown. We noticed in the drive probably two dozen large fields, so that the prospects are for a much larger output of clover seed locally than for some years past. It will all be needed.

The apple crop promises very light, but pears and plums, where grown and properly treated, will yield well and be of fine quality. Prices for all sorts of farm produce are likely to rule high this fall.

The Aylmer Canning Company, which of late years has developed into a great industry, absorbs a vast quantity of vegetables, fruit and poultry, paying out to farmers from \$50,000 to \$55,000 per year, which means an average of about \$1,000 per week, and disburse for labor in the town some \$10,000 in a year. Their output of goods now aggregates about a million and a half tins per annum. The material importance of such an enterprise, both to the townspeople and farmers, can be seen at a glance. The establishment occupies the greater part of a large block of land, and though many extensions have been made, the manager informed us that they were still cramped for room, and are at present making several improvements both within and without the buildings.

In Aylmer we found Mr. S. T. Pettit, one of the foremost authorities on beekeeping in America, and who has done much to bring the industry to its present degree of perfection in Canada, retired from the larger activities of life and rounding out his successful career under congenial conditions, with just enough apiary and fruit-growing to keep himself abreast of the times.

Decision of Level-headed Men.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

DEAR SIR,—I enclose \$2 for the renewal of my subscription to the *ADVOCATE*. This will be my seventeenth subscription, and will pay up to August, 1902. Perhaps it would interest you to know that at a recent annual meeting of the North Bruce Farmers' Institute it was the unanimous opinion of the members present that the *ADVOCATE* was the best agricultural paper published in Canada to-day. Bruce Co., Ont. CECIL SWALE.