

patients, by milk exposed to flies and dust laden with typhoid germs.

Dr. Ernest J. Lederle, president of the New York Board of Health, in a notice to milk dealers, advised that the rooms in which milk is sold should not communicate with one which is used for living or sleeping purposes, because,—

1st. Milk readily absorbs odors from the surrounding atmosphere and is thus rendered more or less unsuitable for use.

2nd. Milk furnishes an excellent medium for the growth of many kinds of disease-producing germs, and through it may be readily transmitted such diseases as tuberculosis, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, influenza, dysentery and probably some others.

If any person sick of any one of these diseases is present in a living or sleeping room, unless the greatest care is used, and even in spite of this, the germs producing these diseases may be conveyed through the atmosphere or by the hands or clothing of those in contact with the sick, and thus the milk becomes contaminated.

One of the characteristics of a typhoid epidemic caused by milk is the rapidity of its dissemination. Specific instances of epidemics traced to milk do not appear in our text-books, but rather are to be found in the reports of wide-awake health officers. Dr. Lederle reports a series of eighty-six cases occurring in one of the New York boroughs which were traced to one case of typhoid in the family of a milkman who had supplied all the families of those taken sick. The well was found contaminated, and ordinary sanitary precautions had been neglected.

Dr. Ernest Wende, of Buffalo, in a paper on "City Milk Routes and Their Relation to Infectious Diseases," which was presented to the Section on State Medicine at the twentieth meeting of the American Medical Association, held at Columbus, Ohio, 1899, reports three epidemics. They are interesting and instructive, hence are reported:

"On September 4, 1894, we were assured by the records of the register that nineteen cases of typhoid fever had developed with wonderful rapidity in families served by a milkman living in a sparsely settled section in the northern part of the city. The Health Department forthwith instituted an investigation, which showed the startling result that the wife of the milkman, surrounded by unfavorable conditions, was ill with the fever, however, on the borderland of recovery. She was still being nursed and cared for by the husband, who likewise was handling the milk and washing the cans in a most objectionable manner,