

as the subject is of such great public importance, and information is awaited with keen anxiety in the agricultural world, it is right that an account of what has so far been done should at once be published, especially as the evidence which has already come to hand has forced me to come to definite conclusions. I would add, I feel strongly in investigations which are so strictly pathological, that the assembly to whom the results should first be made known is this Society. I desire, therefore, most cordially to express my indebtedness to Professor Brown, of the Agricultural Department of the Privy Council, for giving me permission to lay this matter before you, and to you, sir, for having enabled me to do so without any delay.

*Origin of the Investigation.*—I will ask you first of all, sir, to allow me to remind you of the circumstances which have led to a searching inquiry being instituted by the Agricultural Department of the Privy Council into a disease in cows and its relation to scarlatina in man.

*Scarlatina in Marylebone.*—On December 18th, 1885, Mr. Winter Blyth reported to the Local Government Board a sudden and extensive outbreak of scarlatina, which was associated with the distribution of milk by a particular retailer in South Marylebone. The retailer procured his milk from two farms, and there can be little doubt that the milk responsible for the outbreak was derived from a certain dairy farm in Hendon. Mr. Blyth and the medical officer of health for Hendon, Dr. Cameron, were unable to obtain any clue as to the source of infection, and Mr. Power was deputed by the Local Government Board to make an enquiry into the matter.

*Mr. Power's Diagnosis.*—Mr. Power having come to the conclusion that

the milk had not become infected from any human source, proceeded to investigate the condition of the cows. A careful examination was made, with a view to detecting any disease among the cows, and it was discovered that there were several on the farm which were suffering from a disease characterized by the appearance of vesicles and ulcers on the teats and udders. At this stage Dr. Klein became associated with Mr. Power in the inquiry, and we are told that their belief in the existence of a constitutional disease among the cows on the farm, capable of producing scarlatina among human consumers of the cows' milk, became unreserved. Dr. Klein took with him samples of milk, contents of vesicles, and discharges from ulcers, and afterwards two cows were purchased and conveyed to the Brown Institution. At this stage of the inquiry a cowman pointed out to Dr. Klein that he had seen the disease on a certain cow, which was one of a batch that had been imported on Nov. 15th from Derbyshire.

*Dr. Cameron's Account.*—In a paper before the Epidemiological Society, Dr. Cameron gave a detailed description of this cow disease. He pointed out that it was a specific contagious and infectious disease, capable of being communicated to healthy cows by direct inoculation of the teats with virus conveyed by the milker from a diseased animal. Further, he pointed out that the disease was communicable to man.

*The Disease in Man.*—A trusty informant received the virus into a recent scratch on the forefinger while milking a diseased cow. General weakness, *malaise*, and loss of appetite resulted, and after about four or five days a vesicle or small blister appeared on the finger. This broke, and several others formed on the back of the hand. The whole hand and