

shillings and pence, and found wanting). Having been invited to inspect the various sources of milk supply, Dr. Carpenter, of the Northern Hospital for Children, related his experience, revealing as startling a condition and as grave a scandal as did the condition of the Chicago slaughter houses. The cows were huddled together in ill-ventilated, dark, dingy sheds and a foul atmosphere, all of them besmeared with their own excretions, standing on filthy floors. A batch of dirty men, with dirty hands and filthy aprons, were milking. The strainers through which the milk had been strained were found to contain a plentiful supply of stable refuse. The churns and utensils were washed with water taken from a trough in the yard which was smeared over with manure both inside and out. There was not the slightest evidence of any regard for ordinary cleanliness.

As a result of similar revelations in the United States, milk commissions have been appointed in various States, or, rather, in the principal cities, twenty-seven in all. A conference of these commissions was held at Atlantic City last June, when they merged into a national association for the purpose of adopting uniform methods of procedure to fix on chemical and bacteriological standards and to determine the scope of medical and veterinary inspections. This, of course, to be done in conjunction with the Health Department. Out of samples taken from thirty-one dairy wagons in Washington, only thirteen were fit for food, and of one hundred and seventeen samples examined in one year, only fifty contained less than 50,000 bacteria per c.c.; in fact, some of the samples contained a larger number of bacteria than did the sewage water of the city. In Boston fifty-seven samples showed over 2,000,000 per c.c. The conjoined Milk Commission has advised that all milk containing more than 50,000 per c.c. be destroyed by the Health Department.

Dr. Leslie Mackenzie, medical member of the Local Government Board for Scotland, in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, described the method of milking as follows: "To watch the milking of cows in most rural districts is to watch a process of unscientific inoculation of a pure, or almost pure, medium with unknown quantities of unspecified germs. To one who knows the meaning of asepsis it makes the blood run cold to watch, even in imagination, the thousand chances of germ inoculation; rarely is even the precaution taken of washing the udder, which is oftentimes besmeared with excretion from the cow.

Everywhere throughout the whole process of milking the perishable, superbly nutrient liquid receives its repeated sowings of germinal and non-germinal dirt. The hands of the milker