

byre with tuberculous cattle. Care was taken to ascertain that the animals—among which were seven bovines, seventeen goats, two sheep, and one pig—were all healthy before exposure. The seven bovines reacted to tuberculin before they showed any clinical sign of tuberculosis. All save one were killed, and in all there were found tuberculous lesions generally limited to the mediastinal or mesenteric glands. Of the seventeen goats, some reacted distinctly on being subjected to the tuberculin test; the others were shown by post-mortem examination to be tuberculous. The two sheep reacted to tuberculin. In one which was killed in no long time afterwards there was no tuberculous lesion visible to the naked eye. In the other, which was killed after a longer interval, distinct tuberculous lesions were found. The pig had been bitten on the thigh, and had been infected with tuberculosis at the site of the wound by bacilli contained in the litter of the byre. The length of stay of all the animals in the infected byre varied from five months to one or two years. The author adds that dogs and fowls exposed to contagion in the same manner always remained free from tuberculosis.—*The Post-Graduate*.

FASTING FOR ACUTE INFECTIONS.

Prof. De Dominicis has been forced to the conclusion that the mysterious cause which transforms inoffensive bacteria passing harmlessly through the organism into virulent pathogenic germs is the failure of the digestive apparatus to dispose normally of the food. Even the simplest, scantiest diet will produce putrid decomposition if not digested, and the alimentary canal become a toxine factory, and a fine culture-medium for the germs to acquire virulence in and entail serious complication. His extensive experimentation has established the fact that animals kept fasting recovered far more rapidly, and without complications from acute infections and severe traumatisms, than others in the same conditions, fed as usual or even much less than usual. He forbids all food to his patients in acute infections, especially in pneumonia, if there is

any reason to suppose that the digestion will not proceed normally. Observations of 140 cases of pneumonia have confirmed the wisdom of this course, which has won for him the name of the starving doctor. In every case it was noted that during the prolonged fast, sometimes a week in length, the patient partially regained the strength he seemed to have entirely lost before.

STERILIZED MILK MAY BE UNSAFE.

Prof. Marfan combats the idea that is so widespread among the laity that sterilized milk is safe. He has had to report an outbreak of gastro-enteritis in children. These children were all fed from milk that had been carefully sterilized. It appeared that the milk was sterilized 16 hours after milking. While the sterilization was able to kill the bacilli, they had had time to develop toxic substances, which were the cause of the outbreak. Heat kills bacteria but it does not destroy the poisons generated by them. If milk is sterilized after the poisons have been generated it is as dangerous as unsterilized milk.

A HOT SAND BAG.

Dr. Belsharp says: Many persons are acquainted with the virtues of the hot water bag, but a sand bag is still better. Get some clean, fine sand, dry it thoroughly in a kettle on the stove; make a bag about eight inches square of flannel, fill it with the dry sand, sew the opening carefully together, and cover the bag with cotton or linen cloth. This will prevent the sand from sifting out, and also to enable you to heat the bag quickly by placing it in the oven or on top of the stove. After once using this you will never again attempt to warm the feet or hands of a sick person with a bottle or a brick. The sand holds the heat for a long time, and the bag can be tucked up to the back without hurting the invalid.

