

municated to children or grown-up person who may consume the milk. In every municipality there should be a system of dairy and milk inspection. Many deaths are doubtless caused through want of it which might with careful oversight be prevented. But until large numbers of human lives have been manifestly sacrificed there will hardly be any such preventive measures adopted.

MILK, too, is such a complex and nutritious fluid that after being drawn from the cow it is more liable, probably, than any other food to become changed and contaminated. It is singularly prone, as most people know, to absorb impurities such as odors, gases, etc. It is easy to understand that it possesses an attraction—that it constitutes an inviting medium or field—for many sorts of animal and vegetable microscopic organisms, which are with their germs or seeds everywhere present and waiting for a nidus or soil suitable for their development, growth and multiplication. When just from the cow and warm, as while the cow is being milked, it is especially liable to receive impurities. It is at this time, and particularly in close stables, that milk takes in odors, as from the breath of the cow or other excretions, which communicate to it that peculiar condition of

flavor or taste which some persons describe as "cowey." It is very singular that the old-fashioned way of drawing milk from the teats with the hands into open pails has not long ago been superseded by a more cleanly method.

It will be gratifying to many, or to all who have a desire for milk free from impurities of this kind, to learn that a system is fast coming into use, called the Barnhart system, by which the milk is drawn from the cow through a "protector" which prevents contamination after milking, and in which the milk is then bottled and hermetically closed until delivered to customers. The use of this system is optional with dairymen, but we think all who keep cows and supply the public with milk should be compelled to adopt some such plan for keeping the milk free from contamination. In this city we do not know of more than one, Mr. McTiernan, of the Nepean Dairy Farm, who has had sufficient enterprise to introduce the system here. We should think that all wanting a pure, clean milk would practically encourage it. In Toronto the bottling system has long been in general use.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANNOTATIONS.

Proper disinfection is a very important branch of sanitary work, and this journal has ever given much attention to it. Considerable space has recently been given to the results of Dr. Parson's experiments in disinfecting by means of heat. Below is a brief recapitulation of his conclusions: All infected articles which can be treated by boiling water, so as to penetrate the substance efficiently by this means without injury to the articles themselves, can not be so well disinfected in any other way as by simply boiling for a few minutes; infected articles which from their nature do not lend themselves to such boiling had best be treated with high-pressure steam, with such arrangement as will ensure complete penetration of the steam at its high temperature and that such treatment may be relied on to destroy any infective quality in them with the thoroughness and rapidity desired; and in the comparatively few cases where the articles to be disinfected would be injured

by steam, a dry heat of 240° F. will, if sufficiently prolonged, bring about the desired destruction of infection, but that this can not, in the case of most articles, be had by means of dry heat without an inconvenient length of exposure.

RELATING to the cholera, a Rome correspondent, in the early part of this month, writes to the *British Medical Journal* as follows: In previous letters, allusion has been made to the strong under-current of uneasiness prevailing throughout Italy, at the startling suddenness with which, from time to time, the news of local outbreaks of cholera has sprung upon the country. It was just as persistently denied as it had been strenuously affirmed, that cases of cholera of the true Asiatic type had shown themselves, now and again, in Venice, during the winter; and the syndic of that city, not long ago, sent a circular to the various capitals of Europe, containing an explicit denial of all the statements made detrimental to the well-