

diseased must be destroyed, and the owner compensated. This testing is done free. This step on the part of British Columbia is very important as the future of the province is exceedingly promising in the matter of raising cattle.

Every precaution has also been taken to prevent infected animals being imported into the country. Now that it has been settled beyond doubt that man may be infected from bovine sources, the wisdom of destroying all infected animals becomes still more important.

Such measures as those adopted by Nova Scotia and British Columbia will soon become general and find a place in the statute books of all the provinces. When such measures are adopted, the disease will yield and Prometheus will be bound.

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### COMPULSORY TREATMENT.

In Toronto a new phase of treatment has arisen. The medical inspectors of the public schools report such children as in their opinion should undergo certain forms of treatment. The parents are notified and told to have their children treated in the manner indicated. Some declined to obey these orders, and have been fined or threatened with imprisonment.

This raises the whole subject for discussion. It is held by legal authorities of eminence that the statutes do not bestow upon the authorities such powers. This will, no doubt, be tested in the courts by some parent who will object to having his child forced to have tonsils removed without his consent.

This subject may be approached from several viewpoints. A surgeon sees a person who has met with an accident and is unconscious with a depressed fracture of the skull. No friend can be located to give consent to any suggested operation. Under these conditions the surgeon does what he thinks best on his own initiative. But if some near relative is at hand and refuses his consent to any operation, then, under these circumstances, the hand of the surgeon is stayed.

Take this case: A man is ill with appendicitis and is in his proper mind. Here he differs from the foregoing example. The nature of the operation is explained to him, and its advantages and dangers. If he consents, the surgeon is free to operate; but if he refuses, the surgeon cannot operate.

The case of a person who is of unsound mind is taken ill with appendicitis, and the situation is discussed with the parents or proper guardian. These may consent for the patient, or refuse. The surgeon