

disease. Dr. James Andrew, President of the Royal College of Physicians, in a brief opening statement, stated that undoubtedly there were many people, many families, who, though they might not be born tuberculous, had by inheritance a constitution which strongly predisposed to this disease. Sanatoria were still upon their trial, but an hospital for advanced cases he considered to be a great and immediate want. Sir Thomas Grainger Stewart favoured a full and ample trial of sanatoria, but with regard to notification he believed we were scarcely yet in a position to propose it as a compulsory measure.

Professor Chiene, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, said that with regard to notification he believed that any attempt at that, at the present moment, would be in advance of public opinion, and no laws could ever compel people, unless the people themselves were desirous of following those laws. As regards milk, he did not think that the city could step in and apply the tuberculin test to the cows that were in the byres of the city until the tuberculin was supplied by the Government. He thought that as long as it was in the open market, and could be obtained by anyone, then much harm would come from attempting to apply the test to the cows as we had them at present in our byres. He could believe that it might be possible, if the tuberculin were supplied by the Government, to apply the tuberculin test to the cows that were brought week by week to the city before they were sent to the byres.

Dr. Claud Muirhead said that, curable as he believed consumption to be in the early stage of the disease, he did not believe that they would ever be able to cope with it as they could with typhus fever, or hope to stamp it out as they possibly might do typhus. They might greatly reduce the mortality from this terrible scourge, and he sincerely hoped they would, but consumption would be always with us.

Professor Greenfield said he believed

that in the vast majority of cases the infection of consumption was conveyed by contagion from one person to another, especially by the sputa. But they must allow also the possibility of infection by milk, and it was therefore very important that children in fever hospitals should have the milk sterilised (or that it should be free from possible tuberculosis). And he must confess that he did not think there was any difficulty in sterilising all the milk in a large institution.

Dr. R. W. Philip, speaking on notification, said he should like to make two admissions. The first was this, that he conceived notification to be the only logical solution of the tuberculosis problem. On the other hand, he believed that medical opinion, and, he suspected, public opinion, was not sufficiently formed to admit of their pressing compulsory notification at the present time. His second admission was therefore that, with Sir Henry Littlejohn, he hesitated to insist on notification meanwhile.

MILK AS A VEHICLE OF DISEASE.

At the annual meeting of the Social and Sanitary Society of Edinburgh, Dr. Nasmyth, Medical Officer of Health, Cupar-Fife, read a paper on "Milk as a Vehicle of Disease," or "Milk-born Disease." After referring to the enormous use of milk as a food, he said milk to the bacteriologist was a valuable medium for the cultivation of bacteria, as it contained those chemical ingredients necessary for bacterial growth, and that circumstance was very interesting from the fact that milk was, therefore, exceedingly liable to become the vehicle for the growth and transference of disease micro-organisms, from animals to persons and from person to person in various ways. To show that this was so, an experiment had been made, which showed that a cubic inch of milk containing 153,000 bacteria exposed for an hour at a temperature of 59 deg. Fah. contained 330,750, two hours afterwards 616,250, four hours 680,000, and twenty-five hours 85,000,000. That and other ex-