

PREVALENCE OF THE DISEASE IN ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY COWS.

George Fleming, F. R. G. S., &c., &c., who is I believe recognized as the best English authority, in his *Manual of Veterinary Science*, vol. ii, says: "Tubercular Phthisis probably prevails among the domesticated animals over the entire globe, though its frequency will depend upon various external influences, as well as upon the constitutional tendencies of different species and breeds. In some countries it is enzootic and very destructive. Such is the case in densely populated districts and in unhealthy climates, or in regions where animals are improperly fed and housed. In Mexico, for instance, it is very common, and causes much loss, about thirty-two per cent. of the animals slaughtered for food being found affected. In Europe, particularly in the cow-sheds of the large towns and cities, it is extensively prevalent; and in this country [Eng.] it has long been recognized as a common disorder among animals, but more especially as effecting the bovine species."

The British Medical Journal, in a recent editorial on this subject says: "When we find that in one town 17.5 per cent. of the cattle are suffering from the disease, that in another 4.5, and that in others where the inspection is extremely inadequate, and where thousands of cases never come under the inspector's eye, the percentage is almost as great, it can be readily imagined how widespread is the disease. In Germany, where the inspection has gradually become more thorough, the number of cases of tuberculosis reported has rapidly increased from a very small percentage to 20 per cent. in some districts. The same has been the experience of other Continental countries, and so we are convinced it will be in this country (Eng.) if the Board of Agriculture will but take adequate measures to bring about a proper and complete inspection."

At the meeting of the British Medical Association in 1888, Dr. Alfred Carpenter said it had been his duty to hear evidence when application was made for the condemnation of tuberculous carcasses, and that if all such meat were prohibited it would be impossible to feed such a population as that of London. One of the principal inspectors of the largest meat markets in London, he said, stated in the evidence that sometimes as much 80 per cent. of the meat on sale was so affected.

In the United States, the disease appears to be becoming very common. Mr. Salmon, Chief of the Washington Bureau of Animal Industry, at the meeting of the American Public Health Association last year, (89) declared that from "an inspection of about half a million" cattle, the "widespread prevalence of the disease is certain." In the second report of the Maine State Board of Health (for 1887) is given in detail the history of the destruction by this disease of two very valuable herds within the past two years; one, the Orono herd in Maine; the other, that of the Willard Asylum Farm, New York. At a meeting a year or two ago of the Butchers' Association in California, the agent there of the Bureau of Animal Industry spoke strongly of the increased prevalence of the disease—of the "rottenness" of the cattle—there.

The New York Times, during this year (1890), published an extract from a paper by a Mr. Francis Blake, of Boston, who described an outbreak of the disease in his dairy of ten cows. A veterinarian, calling to prescribe for one of the animals, found it tubercular, and upon examination found six of the ten animals to be suffering from tubercular consumption. (Mr. Blake said, I had supposed that I had as fine and healthy a lot of animals as could be found in the State. None of them, to the layman's eye, had any outward symptoms of the disease; in fact, a skilled veterinary surgeon who had been familiar with the stable for years had not suspected trouble until a few days before. The autopsies disclosed a state of physical rottenness, most alarming to me, as the milk from two of the worst cows has been constantly used in my household up to the day of inspection. This experience led one of his neighbors to inquire as to the condition of his own cows, with the result that