

THE MONTREAL Board of Health Report for last year very wisely draws attention to what we have referred to before now. The provisions of the Act of the Federal Government in relation to food: "By section 6 of Statute 48-49 Vict., chap. 67, concerning the adulteration of food, drugs and agricultural fertilizers, the council of any city, town, county or village may appoint one or more inspectors of food, etc., who, for the purposes of this Act shall have all the powers by this Act vested in the officers of the Inland Revenue; they may collect samples, and by offering the fees fixed by the Governor in Council, have them analysed by any public analyst and recover all fines imposed in cases of prosecution; which fines may be utilized and spent in the manner which the council may direct. The Federal Government hoped by the adoption of those provisions to favor the appointment of food inspectors in the more populous centres, so as to prevent the practice of adulteration by rendering inspection as general as possible. It is astonishing the report adds, that the different cities of the Dominion have not profited more by the advantages offered by this Act; advantages so necessary for the protection of health, and attainable at so small an expenditure.

TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS in New Brunswick is said by a leading Veterinary Surgeon there to be "not rare." In the Maritime Medical News, we observe that in the address of the President of the New Brunswick Medical Society, Dr. P. R. Inches, at their late annual meeting, after alluding at considerable length to a number of outbreaks of the disease in other places, and to the danger to the public health therefrom, said: Since writing the foregoing, I have learned from a reliable source of the existence of the disease in this neighborhood. Cases are met with not infrequently, and it is only a few days ago that the termination of one of those cases took place. The animal—a Jersey cow—had been ailing for quite a time, and was examined by a leading veterinary surgeon who diagnosed the case as one of tubercle. The animal was isolated and quarantined by him and kept under observation. After death an examination took place which verified in every particular the post-mortem appearances which I have previously described, both in the cavity of the chest and in the mesentery; and every manifestation of the disease which makes it infectious was present. The

carcass was buried and the case reported to the Department of Agriculture. He tells me such cases are not rare, that the milk of such animals is used and no doubt their flesh often eaten. He has no doubt such a case is infectious under favorable circumstances both to other animals and to human beings who use the milk. There is no system of inspection provided against such cases, and his last remark to me was "that the medical profession will wake up some day to the importance of such cases of infectious disease and insist upon measures to prevent its propagation."

ON THE HARMFULNESS OF SHOULDER-STRAPS, shoulder-braces and such, Mr. Bernard Roth, F. R. C. S., of London, Eng. in a paper (to the Am. Orthop. Assoc., in New York Med. Jour.), after dwelling upon the uselessness and evil effects of such apparatus, said:—In spite of these facts, ninety-nine out of a hundred medical men of the present day are in the habit not only of allowing, but even of advising patients to wear these instruments of torture. I understand that large fortunes are being made by the sale of those popular American and other shoulder-braces which are so largely advertised at the present time. The only way in which shoulder-straps might be worn with benefit—not that I recommend them—is well illustrated by the following anecdote, which is culled from good old John Shaw: An eminent surgeon was consulted by a gentleman who became one of our first tragedians as to the best mode of correcting a stoop which he had acquired. The surgeon told him that neither stays nor straps would do him any essential good, and that the only method of succeeding was to recollect to keep his shoulders back by a voluntary effort. But the tragedian replied that this he could not do, as his mind was otherwise occupied. The surgeon then told him that he could give him no further assistance. Shortly after this conversation the actor ordered his tailor to make a coat of the finest kerseymere, so as to fit him very tightly when his shoulders were thrown back. Whenever his shoulders fell forward, he was reminded by a pinch under the arms that his coat cost him six guineas and that it was made of very fragile material; being thus forced, for the sake of his fine coat, to keep his shoulders back, he soon cured himself of the stoop. He then showed himself again to the surgeon, who ever afterward, when consulted whether young ladies should wear