During the present year early in the spring an epidemic of typhoid fever took place in Paisley, Scotland, and it has been proven bacteriologically that upwards of a hundred cases could be traced to infected milk. Many similar typhoid fever milk epidemics, both in Europe and America, are now on record.

Last year at Oshawa, Ontario, Dr. McCrea, Health Officer there, reported several cases of typhoid fever caused directly by milk contamination.

It is unnecessary to go farther in this discussion of typhoid fever milk epidemics; for it is a well known fact that impure drinking water is probably the most common carrier of typhoid fever contagion to man, and it is self-evident that milk, which is favorable to the growth of typhoid fever bacilli, may be infected from the water. Typhoid fever bacilli may be blown about by the dust, carried on the boots of persons who walk over infected surfaces, and they may also be carried by flies as was abundantly proven during the Spanish-American and South African wars. By all of these means the milk may become infected with the typhoid fever bacilli.

In regard to tuberculosis the bacilli may enter milk not only from tubercular cows and infected stables, but also without doubt from tuberculous people. The danger, however, is lessened in the case of tubercular organisms by the fact that these bacilli do not increase or multiply in milk. The latter peculiarity, as well as the fact that but few tubercular milk epidemics have been reported, puts tuberculosis rather out of the category of diseases that may be spread in epidemic form by means of the medium milk. But so prevalent is tubercular disease in man and animals, so generally diffused and numerous in the community are its sources, and so closely allied with these courses is the medium milk which will preserve and convey its causal agent, that one cannot advisedly dismiss from further discussion in this paper a disease which is so often milk borne.

It has long been known that tuberculosis can be acquired by ingestion as well as by inhalation and inoculation, but the part played by cow's milk in the spread of the disease has only recently begun to receive serious attention. That many persons, old and young, have been infected with tubercle through the milk of cows suffering from the disease is one of the best attested facts in modern pathology; but the extent to which children are the victims of this infection is only now being recognized.

Prof. Von Behring says that milk fed to infants is the chief cause of tubercular infection. Though this teacher probably is in error in making such a statement, still we are safe in saying that most of the