

and only in extraordinary cases. The symptoms generally appear within three hours, and are in most cases very intense. As a little five-year-old boy, who was poisoned last summer in Batavia, expressed it, they are "awful sick." It is a very singular fact, in most of the cases that have come to my knowledge, that though the poison is so very virulent in some stomachs, others can eat of the same cheese that is so poisonous to some, without any deleterious effects, especially after it has stood a few days with the cut surface exposed to the air.

Cases of cheese poisoning are becoming quite common, much more so than is generally supposed. Interested parties have preferred to hush them up rather than publish them, for fear of the effect upon the consumption and price of cheese. But this is hardly a fair way of treating the matter. Better face the difficulty squarely; better take the beast by the horns, and master it if we can.

The poison in cheese appears to be very variable in its efficacy. Besides affecting persons differently, cases may be observed of every conceivable shade of strength, from slightly nauseating to those that produce the extremest symptoms. It may be interesting to refer to some of the severer cases that have lately occurred. In St. Lawrence County, New York, a case occurred in October, 1869, that was noticed at the time by Mr. Willard in the *Rural New Yorker*. From the account there published it appears that the poisoned people traced the cheese, through the dealer who purchased it, back to the dairy, where nothing in the making, or about the dairy, was different from usual. All appeared cleanly, and everything done in the usual manner.

"No deaths," he says, "came from eating the cheese, but the persons who ate of it were taken suddenly ill with pains and cramps, and excessive vomiting, showing evident indications that they had been poisoned." Samples of this cheese were sent to Professor Jackson, of Boston, who, after a rigid examination, reported, as usual, no poison found in any of the samples, but appended the following to his report: "But there is a small proportion of offensive putrifying animal matter, which has been separated here, that does not belong to good cheese." Other facts appeared in the account

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