

much greater. Many farmers, too, on the first symptoms or signs of any failure in the health of his animal, will, from self interest, almost instinctively, at once sell it to the butcher.

Before bringing evidence before you as to the degree of prevalence of the disease in Canada, allow me to briefly quote authorities as to its prevalence in other countries.

Dr. Heath, Pres. American Farmer's Club, some time ago (in *Lond. Med. Rec.*) stated that "This disease prevails extensively among such animals all over the world, and especially in populous and crowded localities. Observations in Mexico have led to the conclusion that 31 per cent. of all beasts slaughtered there were more or less affected with this disease, and probably 50 per cent. of the cows kept in large towns were thus diseased. The fact that this is not more generally recognized is, of course, owing to the animals being slaughtered before the disorder has attained any very noticeable development."

Mr. Salmon, Chief of the Washington Bureau of Animal Industry, at the last November meeting of the A. P. H. A., declared that from "an inspection of about half a million" cattle, the "widespread prevalence of the disease is certain." In the second and, I think, last report of the Maine State Board of Health 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 recent meeting of the Butchers' Association in California, the agent there of the Bureau of Animal Industry spoke strongly of the prevalence of the disease--of the "rottenness" of the cattle--there, and the great danger to the public health therefrom. At the last meeting of the British Medical Association, 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 as

30 per cent. of the meat on sale was so affected. At this same meeting, Dr. Farquharson, M. P., after discussing the subject, said, "under these alarming circumstances, he held it was the duty of the government to deal seriously with it."

About two years ago I sent out questions to a large number of veterinary surgeons throughout Ontario, with the special object of finding out the facts as to the frequency or otherwise of cases of the disease in this province. I received a good many replies, although not so many as I had hoped for. Collectively, these went to show that in the opinion of the writers the disease was not very common, but that on the whole there were a good many cases of it. Some of the respondents mentioned recent cases observed, while others wrote that although few cases had come under their own observation, other veterinary surgeons, they were informed, had observed many cases. One wrote, in effect, that he had reason to believe the disease common, but that stock owners wished to keep it quiet: and he expressed the wish that his name should not be publicly mentioned in connection with this information. At the opening of the Montreal Veterinary College, in October, 1887, Dr. R. P. Howard, Dean of McGill Medical Faculty, in the chair, Mr. McEachren, Chief Veterinary Surgeon of the Dominion, said: "The communicability of tuberculosis from animals to man has been proven beyond a doubt. The insidiousness of this disease makes it difficult to arouse the people to its danger. The milk supply is often tested by public analysts and police inspectors to prevent its adulteration by water, but no effort is made to prove the absence of diseased germs in the nutrient fluid which forms the chief food of infants and invalids. . . . He was aware that this disease was on the increase among cattle in Canada as elsewhere." In the ninth annual report of the Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, Guelph, Ontario, it is stated that "the extent to which this disease exists amongst the better breeds of cattle in this country is alarming, for many reasons; not the least one of which is the danger to which the public