



TYPHOID FEVER FROM MILK AND OTHER FOODS

MANY sanitarians think that, in discussing the etiology of typhoid fever, attention appears to be directed rather exclusively to polluted water. It is doubtless true, that, in the vast majority of cases, the bacilli of Eberth are swallowed; but, in a good many instances, the infection does not reach the consumer's stomach in a draught of water. Milk may be polluted by water used to cleanse milk cans, or for diluting purposes, or the infection may be transferred to milk by the hands of milkers or other employees in a dairy.

As the surgeon, who operates with unclean hands, inoculates his patients with pyogenic organisms, so milkers, by transferring typhoid bacilli from their hands to milk, inoculate the customers of the dairy with typhoid fever. Fecal matter has frequently been found under the free borders of the finger-nails of milkers who thought their hands were clean. Milkers should be obliged to keep their nails short, and to use the nail-brush so as to remove the dirt from the recesses about their nails, which are not accessible to soap and water, in the ordinary washing of the hands. Any person, nursing or attending a case of typhoid fever, should be forbidden, under penalty, to milk cows. Neither should a dairyman, in whose dairy a case of typhoid fever is nursed, be allowed to