

# REPORT ON TUBERCULOSIS IN ONTARIO.

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It may be stated that since the publication in the autumn of 1892 of the Bulletin on the "The Milk Supply Problem" and on "Diagnosis of Tuberculosis in Cattle,"\* the importance of this subject has been making itself increasingly felt, not only amongst sanitarians and the medical profession, but amongst the public at large who are milk and meat consumers, and perhaps still more amongst the farming and live stock community who are producers of the materials for consumption.

It has fortunately, happened, however, that as the medical profession have begun to realize the actual character of tuberculosis as a contagious disease and are uttering warning words to the public of the dangers of infection by way of the respiratory and alimentary tracts, that some light has come which has served in some slight degree to make the cloud hanging over this all-important subject less dark, and to cause, perhaps, even some rifts in it to appear. This progress in the solution of the problem has been due to Prof. R. Koch, who discovering in 1881 the cause of the disease to be a microbe, did ten years afterward in tuberculin discover a means for proving its presence, so delicate, and yet so accurate that the most unbelieving amongst veterinarians are to-day confessing to its marvellous diagnostic value and significance.

The presence of tuberculosis in man at the present day is almost coincident with the extent of the area occupied by him; but this prevalence is specially marked in the civilized nations of temperate climates. Here and there are communities notably free from its ravages; but even on the *mesas* of Central Mexico at 7,000 feet above the sea its prevalence in some

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\* "The Milk Supply Problem," by P. H. Bryce, M.A., M.D., "Diagnosis of Tuberculosis in Cattle," by J. J. Mackenzie, B.A.