

## MUNICIPAL MEAT INSPECTION

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Some of you may wonder, especially those of you who are engaged in general practice, why the question of meat inspection is given such a prominent place each year on our program. There are various reasons for keeping the subject before the members and having matters pertaining thereto discussed at our meetings. It is now generally recognized that in order for an individual to properly fill the position of meat inspector (I refer now to a position of independent responsibility) he should be a qualified veterinarian. If then it is necessary, in order to properly fill such a position, to have, among other things, adequate veterinary training, the subject of meat inspection should be a part of our program.

This is not, however, to my mind, the most important reason for keeping the subject alive by frequent discussions at the meetings. If meat inspection, in order to be properly carried on, comes within the jurisdiction of veterinarians, then, most assuredly, they should see that the consuming public in their respective localities is adequately safeguarded against unwholesome meats. This, like all other similar matters, can best be done—in fact, can only be done—by carefully educating the public so that the need of inspection may be made manifest.

The State meat inspection service has been trying, in so far as it is possible, to co-operate with the Federal meat inspection service. In fact, broadly speaking, we might regard the State inspection an auxiliary to the Federal inspection. A number of our municipalities have provided for local meat inspection, some of which are independent of the State, while others have adopted ordinances in accordance with what is known as the State Meat Inspection Law of 1907, and are co-operating with the State Live Stock Sanitary Board. We are of the opinion that in order to render the best possible service in protecting the public against diseased and unwholesome meats the various local municipal meat inspection services should co-operate with and be an auxiliary to the

State service, just as the State is to the Federal service. Working, then, with this end in view, the question arises, How are we going to proceed so that the system will be uniform and all localities of the State adequately protected? In our judgment, the only practical solution is for the cities and towns to provide local inspection with municipal slaughter houses. This is not by any means a new scheme, but, on the other hand, it has been tried out, not only in this country, but in various countries of the Old World, and with great success, not only from a financial point of view, but other ways.

Unfortunately, the butchers, in some localities at least, have been unfairly dealt with by the local officials adopting ordinances and regulations which forbid the erection and operation of a slaughter house within the borough or city limits. On account of this, the only thing for the butcher to do is to go outside, away from the city water and sewer connection, both of which are very necessary, and build his slaughter house. In such cases he usually selects a site some backwoods, perhaps near a spring, where he can get enough water to wash the carcass, but seldom sufficient to properly cleanse the slaughter room. Again, he has to contend with the question of proper drainage and disposal of his refuse and offal. Operating under such conditions, there is always a temptation to keep hogs to eat the offal and refuse, which is not only unsanitary, but is expensive in a great many cases, on account of the hogs developing such diseases as cholera, tuberculosis, etc. It is not uncommon to find in offal-fed hogs *echinococcus* cysts in the liver, to say nothing of other serious conditions traceable to this filthy practice. Experience has shown that if clean, wholesome meats and meat products are to be produced and placed upon the market, it is absolutely necessary for the slaughtering to be done and the meats prepared and stored under favorable conditions. In other words, not a building located in the rural districts and in a ravine or hollow, with practically no water and drainage,