

Health." It is in consequence of this request that I have regarded it my duty to present to the Board some facts which have come within my personal knowledge.

In speaking of adulteration of milk it is desirable to have a distinct meaning implied or conveyed by the term. I should prefer to use the term *impure* as more correctly and fully embracing the several causes of deterioration of this article of food. Milk may be diluted without being really adulterated. If the water used to dilute is pure the milk is simply diluted, not adulterated.

The causes of impurity or deterioration of milk may be embraced under three heads. (1) Anything which affects the health of the animal; (2) Dilution by pure and impure water; (3) Adulteration by the use of chemical or other agents to preserve the appearance and taste of the fluid after dilution. To dilute milk for sale is a fraud; to adulterate it is a worse offence; and to employ agents for adulteration detrimental to health is a flagrant crime.

Some time ago, having obtained from the accommodating City Commissioner a list of the cattle byres in the city, I proceeded to visit a number of them; and it is the result of observation at that time, and the knowledge otherwise acquired which I wish to place before the Board of Health.

Referring again to the three classes of causes of impure milk, I think the first, at least in Toronto, is the most important, because the most common and productive of harm. Dilution of milk is no doubt too frequently practiced; but so long as the water is pure the milk is not vitiated. However, there is reason to fear that the water is often impure. Organic matter suspended in the water may not only itself be deleterious, but it may effect a change more or less injurious in the constituents of the milk. With regard to the class of causes where there is really adulteration, I think there is insufficient reason to believe that it is practiced to any great extent in Toronto. But, when it is employed the adulterants may be innocuous or the reverse. Adulterated milk is especially hurtful when it constitutes the food of children or sick persons. I think, however, that it may be stated that the greatest cause of impure milk is to be found in connection with the feeding and housing of the animals.

As far as I have been able to learn, the dairymen of the city, having disposed of the cows in the spring, which are usually then in a good condition for the butcher, buy, about the 1st of June, a fresh stock, which are placed in fields in the suburbs or within a few miles of the city, for the summer. The cows