

Prof. McFadyean said : (Lancet, Oct. 10). At the present time 20 per cent. of the dairy cows in Edinburgh were affected with tuberculosis in a more or less degree, and this was probably the proportion of tuberculosis in dairy cows throughout Scotland. They might safely assert that tubercle bacilli were sold daily in every city in the country at the market price of wholesome milk. He insisted on the necessity of thoroughly efficient veterinary inspection at short intervals of dairies and of dairy cattle. A number of members took part in the discussion, and they all in the main agreed with the principal contentions of Dr. McFadyean. Principal Waley referred to a herd of eleven milch cows whose slaughter he had to order, and although he thought he had never seen healthier animals, yet when they were slaughtered it was found that out of the eleven cows seven had tuberculosis.

THE PEOPLES HEALTH is the subject of discussion by President C. W. Eliot in the Forum of the current month. The writer says. "One would imagine, *a priori*, that "government by the people, for the people," would always have been careful of the people's health ; but here we come upon one of the most conspicuous failures of free institutions in urban populations. Democratic government is at present at a serious disadvantage, in comparison with monarchical governments, as regards the care of the public health."... "In its respect for personal liberty and the right of the individual, democracy lets ignorance and selfishness poison water supplies with fecal matter, distribute milk infected with diphtheria, scarlet fever or tuberculosis, and spread contagious disease by omitting the precautions of isolation and disinfection. Clearly, this feebleness of democracy is largely due to ignorance. How about our own Canada in this respect?

ARSENICAL POISONING cases from dyes have been reported of late more frequently than usual. The British Medical Journal says : It is asserted in the *British Bee Journal* that a beekeeper of Warburton, Sussex, died recently from the effects of arsenical poisoning due to the use of a bright crimson drugget containing arsenic which had been put down in his house some two years ago. Nothing could be said against the sanitary condition of the premises,

and after the drugget had been for some time in the house, illness occurred among the inmates, who, however, recovered when absent from home. It seems that the poisonous effects were due to the presence of an aniline dye containing the small proportion of arsenic which may have been left as an impurity after the production of the dye. It is not generally known that cases of arsenical poisoning due to the use of materials dyed with aniline dyes are not so much caused by the fact that arsenic had been used in producing the dye, as by the fact that arsenical compounds are largely used as mordants to fix the dye upon the material.

A CASE IN POINT has been recently described by a London public analyst. A lady had purchased from a well-known West-end establishment several yards of a light, flimsy printed material of the kind now so much employed for curtains and other household decoration. While working at this material, both the lady and her maid began to suffer from symptoms of arsenical poisoning. The substance was found by the analysts to contain very large quantities of arsenic, a compound of which had obviously been used for the purpose of fixing the colored printed pattern.

A STILL MORE SERIOUS state of matters in this relation has just been brought out by Dr. Putnam, in a paper read before the Massachusetts Medical Society. His first point was that the actual absorption of arsenic in consequence of the exposures of daily life is extremely common. He caused the urine of a number of his hospital out-patients to be examined, and of more than 150 such cases, arsenic was found in the urine in about 30 per cent. "This would indicate a very widespread exposure on the part of the community at large, as of many of those patients it could be positively stated that they had taken no arsenic as medicine.... Arsenic accumulates in the tissues, so that the elimination of a certain quantity implies the presence of a far larger quantity in the body. The daily elimination represents only a small fraction of that present in the body, and arsenic has been discovered in the bones and liver six months after the cessation of medicinal treatment."

ON THE STRAIN of parliamentary life, the Lancet (Oct. 17) says : The remarkable and