

## CHAPTER XXI.

### CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND THEIR SUPPRESSION.

**Diseases of germ origin** have become of great importance to the stock raiser in recent years and are more easily controlled than formerly, owing to the work of bacteriologists and veterinarians. Hygiene, which means pure food, good water, pure air, sunshine and cleanliness, prevent the harboring of germs and thus limit or prevent their propagation.

**Tuberculosis**, commonly termed consumption, is quite prevalent in the human race and in cattle is not at all uncommon. The cause of the disease is the *bacillus tuberculosis*, discovered by Koch in 1882. Heredity is only a predisposing cause, as are lack of pure air, innutritious food, lack of sunlight, as in dark basement barns, etc. The disease is not easily discovered in the early stages without the aid of the tuberculin test, which is a very reliable method when in the hands of competent men, and is entirely without danger to the animal tested; in the later stages of this serious trouble the disease is evidenced by a frequent cough, general ill-health, shown by the staring coat, capricious appetite, and sometimes a stinking diarrhoea. Treatment in the usual sense of the term is not practicable; but the progress of the disease in a herd may be arrested by culling out the diseased cattle at least once a year by means of the tuberculin test, separating the healthy from the unhealthy, and