

sought to awaken an interest in the matter among the members of this Association, in hope of being able through them to rouse public interest in a subject so seriously menacing public health, on account of there being no municipal or provincial regulations to prevent the sale of milk or flesh of animals affected by a disease which, if not identical with consumption, certainly was communicable and produced that disease in various forms in the human family.

For this reason I brought these facts before them in the form of a paper, with what result you can infer from the fact that to-day the same condition of things continues to exist in Montreal. No provision is made to prevent the sale of tuberculous milk, and scarcely any to prevent the sale of tuberculous meat. True, occasionally a carcass is seized at the abattoirs, when the tuberculosis is general and in an advanced stage, but I have known of instances in which the tubercles have been cut off by the inspector, (some years ago) and the carcass stamped with the corporation stamp as sound meat.

Tuberculosis in cattle to-day in this province, and the whole Dominion in fact, is more prevalent than ever before, and, if I am rightly informed, consumption in the human family is increasing in like ratio.

I wish to cast no reflections on the members of the noble profession of medical science in this relation. The facts adduced by the investigations of the above named scientists were too new and the deductions too startling for a profession, too long remarkable for conservatism, to accept without doubt such disturbing ideas as consumption being contagious, or having anything whatever to do with bovine consumption, and, as was the case with Jenner's innovation, when he proposed to prevent small-pox by substituting for it the milder cow-pox (vaccine). "A great ferment instantly arose, and the subject was hotly discussed both in professional circles and general society. Many of the sanguine and a few of the profound were at once convinced of the truth of Villemin's and Chauveau's opinions; but the cautious suspended their judgment, while the superficial and self-sufficient pronounced at once that the whole was an absurdity."