

The tuberculin test has been the subject of considerable controversy, and the following facts should be kept well in mind:

Dr. Watson², president of the State Board of Cattle Commissioners, Concord, N. H., states: "We believe that a majority of the cattle reacting to the tuberculin test are not diseased to an extent that requires their slaughter for the protection of the public health." The policy of slaughtering all animals that reacted on tuberculin has been entirely abandoned, as, after the most careful inquiry, it is believed that a majority of the cattle reacted on by the tuberculin test are not diseased to an extent that requires their slaughter for the protection of the public health. Much depends on the careful and thorough examination by skilled veterinary surgeons, as thus the danger of infection from either tuberculous meat or milk would be reduced to a minimum.

Tuberculin does not reveal the degree of infection and is not as reliable a test as was at first supposed. Solomon, in 1893, admitted³ that tuberculin was a great aid to diagnosis of tuberculosis, but not infallible, and might lead to errors. There are instances on record in which tuberculosis existed and the animals did not react to tuberculin. In all such investigations, in order to promote health in cattle as well as man, the opinion arrived at by the highest authority is, that sanitation ranks first. Dairymen should be registered, and an inspector appointed for a specific area of country, to be under the control of the local government or a provincial bureau of cattle commissioners, to make reports at stated intervals, as well as issue printed circular directions to dairymen, milk venders and cattle dealers, for their guidance and general direction, and all animals for food supply should be inspected before they are sold. Some such system carried into effect in Canada would reduce tuberculosis to a minimum, and do much to strengthen the belief that the Dominion is a center of health, happiness and prosperity. Too much stress can not be placed on these facts, in order that the public, as a whole, may be aroused to the great importance of a general knowledge of the subject, as such would in time give direction

² Public Health Report for 1898, Vol. xxiv, p. 149.

³ Trans. American Pub. Health Assn.