

## ON SOME PRACTICAL POINTS CONNECTED WITH MILK SUPPLY.

**I**N a recent paper read before the Epidemiological Society of London, Eng., Mr. Shirley F. Murphy, Medical Officer of Health to the London County Council, and Sanitary Director of the Dairy Supply Association, London, dealt with many important points of practical sanitary interest in connection with the subject of healthy milk production and milk distribution. The milk supply needs care and supervision hardly less, if not more, than the water supply, and the public cannot be too often reminded and warned of the dangers connected with it. In English exchanges, reports of outbreaks of typhoid and scarlet fever and diphtheria from infected milk are quite common. Dr. Ernest Hart, the talented editor of the *British Medical Journal*, at a recent London Congress submitted an abstract giving, in tabular form, particulars of 71 recent epidemics, due to infected milk, that have been recognized and made the subject of detailed observation in Great Britain. In Canada they may be more common than is apparent, as here there is not the system of inspection which is exercised in England. Besides outbreaks of infectious disease, many other diseases of the human organism, especially of infants, such as diarrhoeas, tuberculosis and numerous disordered states, are caused by bad milk. In the supervision of milk dairies there are many points to be considered: the health and condition of the cow, and even her history, for a cow may appear to be in excellent condition for months and give a good supply of milk and yet be affected with tuberculosis, the infective bacilli being discoverable in the milk; then the housing, the cleanliness, dryness, cubic space and ventilation of the stable, and the surrounding conditions; the food of the cow and the water she is supplied with; the condition as to cleanliness, &c., of the udder and the milker's hands just before the milking process; the cans, strainers and other vessels, and the cooling and after care that the milk shall not absorb infections or impurities; that there be no cases of infec-

tious disease associated in any way with the family of the dairyman or milk dealers or vendors. Valuable human life may be sacrificed for want of proper supervision in connection with all these different procedures directly associated with the public milk supply.

In the above named paper and in another by Dr. Alexander Bryce (Prof. in Anderson's Col. Med. School,—pub. in *Glasgow Sanitary Jr.*) the following suggestions amongst others appear:—No newly purchased animal should be admitted into the cow-shed until it has been subjected to one month's quarantine, being milked only by a person who does not come into contact with the rest of the herd, and if any udder disease break out in the herd, isolation should at once be carried out. Cows lie down in their own excrement, a fresh coat being put on each day, decomposition takes place, and this goes on for months. There are two remedies given for this condition, with plan of stable floor. These are, (1) make the floor of the stall from the trough to the channel the exact length of the cow's body; (2) make the channel, or floor back of the stall part, from 6 to 8 inches lower, so that the excrement shall be quite out of reach of the cow's quarters when she lies down. If, in addition, the floor in the stall be covered with clean straw and the portion near the channel renewed night and morning, there is no possible chance of the soiling of the cow's quarters and udder. Then, the cow's udder should be carefully cleansed (brushed or wiped) before the operation of milking, and "what is most important of all," the milker should wash his hands after the milking of each cow, or at least, as in Denmark, after every second cow. In this way, should udder disease attack one cow, there is less danger of the disease spreading to others. As the paper states, "all these points are of the utmost importance, and it is strange that so very few pay any attention to them, and the only reason that can be advanced is the ignorance of the farmer, preventing the proper interpretation