

suffered from some form of tuberculosis; while of the inmates of Ontario asylums for the insane during the same year 23.4 per cent. of all who died, died from this cause.

Having thus illustrated the actual, and from analogy the theoretical prevalence of tuberculosis in man in Ontario, we have to examine into the question of the prevalence of the disease in cattle.

According to the returns of the Department of Agriculture for 1892 the total number of horned cattle in Ontario was as follows :

Milch cows .....	787,836
Store or beefing cattle.....	366,705
Young and other cattle .....	868,755
Total .....	2,029,140

Unfortunately no statistics are available as to the prevalence of diseases in Ontario cattle, and, indeed, few anywhere.\* We may, however, from analogy arrive at certain conclusions with regard to the prevalence of tuberculosis based upon certain statistics elsewhere which are of value in this enquiry. Just as it is found that amongst men engaged in different occupations tuberculosis prevails in varying degrees, so we have reason to believe that different classes of cows are affected in different degrees. Milch cows, owing to their being generally housed, especially in dairies supplying public milk, and owing to the draft made upon their physical powers by the prolonged lactation, are both more exposed to the disease through contaminated air and less liable to resist the disease when so exposed. For similar reasons the many valuable herds of imported cattle, housed carefully, would be more exposed to any infection present in the stables; while, perhaps, it may further be fairly concluded that in some of the finer herds, in-breeding, where present, will have tended to transmit any family predisposition to disease in a manner similar to that seen in certain families of the human species.\* On the other hand, young cattle born largely in the spring-time spend their lives till autumn in the fields, and, in probably the proportion of instances, around the straw-stack in winter, leading a largely open-air life. Indeed, until the young heifers become milkers, and until the young steers become store cattle, they are relatively but slightly exposed to the contagion of disease, through ex-

\*To illustrate this fact it is of interest to observe the immunity of cattle in the Virginia Experimental Station herd. There 54 cattle were tested with tuberculin, and 1 gave the reaction. In that climate cattle live largely an out-door life.

Another herd in same State, of 35 head, when tested gave the reaction in one case. Reaction was proved by *post mortem*.