

ON THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS IN ANIMALS,

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PREVENTION IN THE DOMINION.¹

BY

D. McEACHRAN, F. R. C. V. S., V. S. EDIN., D. V. S.,

Dean of the Faculty of Comparative Medicine and Veterinary Science, McGill University; Chief Inspector and Veterinarian of the Dominion.

Considering that this paper is but one of several to be read to-night on this all important subject of tuberculosis, I have found it necessary in order to comply with the time allowance to restrict my observations to a few of the most important points bearing on the disease as it affects the domestic animals.

THE DANGERS ARISING FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN ANIMALS.

Without taking up your time in discussing whether the tubercle bacilli of man and the different species of animals are or are not identical we will premise that in the organism of the susceptible food producing animals the tubercle bacillus will live, thrive, and exercise its destructive operations, and will produce the disease in many of the lower animals which in turn become capable of transferring it to others and to man.

Experiments have determined beyond doubt that next to man the most susceptible to this disease are the animals most made use of for the food supply of the human family, viz: cattle, swine and chickens. These contract it in the natural way, but it can be produced in sheep, dogs, cats, rabbits, goats and horses, by inoculation with tuberculous material.

Of these food producing animals, cattle, swine, and chickens, are most exposed to the infection and are susceptible in the above order.

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DANGER FROM TUBERCULOUS CATTLE.

Fortunately but a small percentage of the cattle affected by tuberculosis are affected in organs from which the bacilli can readily escape so as to become the infecting agents to other animals. There is a widespread, popular error on the subject of infection by this disease, and the question is often asked:—Why is tuberculosis not much more common than it is? The answer is, that only a small proportion of tuberculous people or animals are infective and that all people and animals are not equally susceptible.

¹ Being a contribution to a discussion on the "Prevention and Cure of Tuberculosis," at the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society 17th April, 1899.