

In Plainfield, New Jersey, an epidemic was traced to a farm hand who had a mild attack of scarlet fever and who handled the milk while ill.

More recently an outbreak of scarlet fever occurred among 35 students of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. The 35 students took their meals at eleven different boarding-houses, all of which were supplied with milk by the same dairy man; also five private families, supplied with the same milk, had one or more cases of fever in each of their households. The infection was attributed to winter clothing which had just been put on and which had been laid away the previous winter when the "dairyman's family ran through a course of scarlet fever."

From the now extensive literature on the subject we may conclude that scarlet fever may be conveyed through a contaminated milk supply. The matter is not proven with scientific accuracy or, one might say, beyond the peradventure of a doubt, but the chain of circumstantial evidence is so strong as to render this conclusion irresistible.

The view advanced by Dr. Klein and some others that the cows themselves sometimes suffer from scarlatina is not generally credited.

Hall, in his article in the *New York Medical Record*, November 11th, 1899, in reviewing the subject of milk infection, makes the following interesting statement "while scarlet fever occurs in epidemics in those countries where cow's milk forms a staple article of food, especially among children, it does not occur in countries where cow's milk is not used as a food, or where children are raised on mother's milk only."

In Japan, cow's milk is not used and there scarlet fever is practically an unknown disease. In India, cow's milk is used but children are kept at the maternal breast, until they are three or four years of age. Scarlet fever is a rare disease in India and seldom occurs in epidemic form.

In January, 1907, an epidemic of scarlet fever and diphtheria swept over the city of Chicago. Altogether in one month more than ten thousand cases of infectious diseases were reported, including four thousand cases of scarlet fever, and upwards of one thousand cases of diphtheria. There were over three hundred deaths. It was proved that the outbreak was due to infected milk which came from two small places in Wisconsin where there were cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever, namely, Bas-set Station and Genoa Junction. The former is a dairy farming district where, for months, scarlet fever had been prevalent, yet milk was regularly shipped, without warning of any kind, to Evanston and Chicago.

In connection with this Chicago epidemic it is worth noticing that, in the bottling house of one of the largest dairy companies in the world,