

In regard to preventive measures the Commission suggests that "in the interests of infants and children and members of the population whom we have proved to be specially endangered, and for the reasonable safeguarding of the public health generally we would urge that existing regulations and supervision of milk production and meat preparation be not relaxed; that, on the contrary, the Government should cause to be enforced, throughout the kingdom, food regulations planned to afford better security against the infection of human beings from the medium of articles of diet derived from tuberculous animals. More particularly," say the Commissioners, "we would urge action in this sense in order to avert or minimize the present danger arising from the consumption of infected milk."

The Commissioners are convinced that measures for securing the prevention of living tubercle bacilli in milk would greatly reduce the number of cases of tuberculosis of the abdomen and glands of the neck in children, and "that such measures include the exclusion from the food supply of the milk of the recognisable tuberculous cow, irrespective of the site of the disease."

The final report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis is dated June, 1911, and is signed by all five Commissioners, namely, Sir William Henry Power, F.R.S., Dr. G. Simms Woodhead (Chairman in succession to the late Sir Michael Foster), Dr. Sydney Martin, F.R.S., Sir John McFadyean, and the late Sir R. W. Boyce, F.R.S., although the last named has died before its ultimate publication.

#### Inter Alia.

The dispensary plan should be kept well in the public view in the crusade against consumption. The disposition is now to combat disease more by preventive than by curative measures, though both these must to a certain extent be interoperative and the essential preventive measures in combating consumption is undoubtedly the dispensary system.

One idea in regard to interoperation is to map out the country or selected areas of it as the battlefield is mapped out for the purpose of medical aid. There are

the seekers for the wounded, the field hospitals, the base hospitals, and finally the permanent hospitals.

In applying the military idea to the organization against consumption, those who are attached to the dispensaries represent those sections of the army medical corps who work on the battlefield. It is explained that in addition to treating individual patients suffering from consumption as out patients, the members of the staffs of the different dispensaries follow the consumptive to his home. The dispensary doctors and nurses attend these homes to investigate the conditions under which the patients live. They endeavor to correct these conditions should they be found to facilitate the propagation of the germs of tuberculosis. Thus the dispensary officials will, in course of time, be aided in their work by the heads of households. In the dispensary system with which ought to be allied the more drastic enforcing of the housing laws and the laws of sanitation generally, there would be an informal system of notification.

One of the objects of the dispensary system is to assist in the creation of healthy homes both by advice and precept and to protect as far as possible the healthy from disease, the line of advance behind the dispensary system being the officers who regulate the more suitable patients to the sanatoria and farm colonies, just as the wounded soldier is sent back from the field hospital to the base hospital and finally to the permanent hospital should the case prove incurable.

The dispensary system has been tried in various countries, and it has been found to answer expectations more readily than the resort to purely curative treatment provided at the sanatoria which do not strike at the roots of the evil, but endeavor to arrest it after more or less definite manifestation.

The interest of life insurance companies in the sanitary condition of cities is apparently increasing. And there is abundant reason why it should, for the better the health conditions the longer the lives of the policy-holders are likely to be