

It is said by a veterinary surgeon of Chicago, Mr. Detmers, in a report on diseases of domestic animals, 1869, that a horse may be affected with glanders, and communicate the disease to healthy horses, and itself not show any of the three principal symptoms characteristic of the disease, namely—discharge from the nose, ulcers in the nasal cavities (nostrils), and swelled glands; and he gives cases in proof of this.

The contagium is volatile, and may be communicated through the air by inhalation, as well as by actual contact. A Michigan newspaper item reads, "A Grand Rapids milkman has been detected in filling his cans with water from a horse trough. A good way to spread the glanders, with all its physical horrors and certain death."

There is another, and much more common source of danger to the too unsuspecting public, and which is therefore of more importance practically than that from glanders. I refer to phthisis or consumption in cows, fowls, and other domestic animals.

That tubercular consumption may be communicated to man from animals by means of the flesh, or of milk in the case of cows, being used as food, is now it appears to me placed beyond a doubt. The experiments, extending over many years, of Klebs, Bollinger, Fox, Sanderson and others, and their conclusions, are very convincing.

I have observed that the *Farmer's Advocate*, of Western Ontario, has referred to this subject. It says that, though there are, it is true, cases of tuberculosis in Canadian cattle, they are comparatively rare. It advises that "the disease should be guarded against as much as possible." In the *National*

*Health Bulletin*, published by the United States National Board of Health, cases are reported by a Mr. Shaw, a veterinary surgeon, that came recently under his notice in Brooklyn, N.Y. [referred to in this JOURNAL some months ago.] In one case, a cow and the owner and his wife were all rapidly sinking under advanced tuberculosis. In the other case, a family cow was afflicted with the disease, and the wife of the owner was consumptive also, and had been making free use of the milk, warm from the cow; she was persuaded to give it up, and underwent an immediate and a decided improvement.

This subject, gentlemen—the contagiousness of consumption, and its probable communicability from animals to man, more especially as it relates to the milk supply, and that too for infants and children, is one which demands the most serious consideration of the members of our profession. It is of much greater consequence than that of the ordinary adulteration of milk. Tubercles in milk is, indeed, an adulteration, if it may be so called, of the very worst and most malignant sort.

It is to be feared that this disease in milch cows is much more common in the cities in this country, where cows are usually kept in dark, dismal, foul stables during the entire winter, almost without seeing daylight, than is even suspected by the citizens, or the *Farmer's Advocate*, above referred to. It is the rule to milk these cows during the winter, while fattening them more or less, at the same time; and they are sold in early spring to the butchers, and we all I suppose help to eat and to digest their flesh.