

ful proof of the possibility of tuberculous diseases being also conveyed in this manner; and with regard to the flesh of diseased animals being productive of disease, there are too many well-known instances for that theory to be questioned. If Professor Koch is correct in his statement on this matter there would certainly be effected an immense saving of bovine life, and of the national wealth. Indeed, one speaker at the Congress produced figures showing the enormous destruction of cattle suspected or known to be tuberculous, which takes place every year in this country; and whilst pointing out the great money loss represented by such wholesale slaughter of these animals, he incidentally reflected on the probability that it was due to this very great waste of flesh that this country is, to such a large extent, dependent for its meat supply on importations from other lands. This loss and damage, direct and indirect, has always been regarded as fully compensated for by the increasing health of the people, and the rapid diminution in the death-rate from Consumption. Whatever the truth may be, on this vitally important question, the sooner it is ascertained and authoritatively stated the better it will be for everyone concerned. Doubtless the milk and the meat purveyor will quote Professor Koch's dictum freely, to prove that their particular articles of merchandise are perfectly healthy; doubtless there will be many economists who will bitterly protest against the enormous waste of money and national capital involved in the slaughter of the herds and flocks of the country. But, on the other hand, the health of the people is the supreme consideration; and until it is proved conclusively that the present precautions are neither wise nor salutary, it is earnestly to be hoped that neither an excited people will demand, nor that a weak Government will waive, the great precautions which have been taken in the past to protect the public from the dissemination of disease. With reference to the Resolution passed by the Congress expressing its strong condemnation of the habit of expectoration in public places, this judgment has not been expressed too soon. Although the habit is not so general as it is in other countries, it is undoubtedly very prevalent; and now that the absolute danger, of the dried sputa conveying the tubercle bacilli to the healthy, has been proved, it is surely not too much to hope that universal efforts will be made to check and finally prevent its possibility in future.

Annotations.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The deliberations of the Congress on Tuberculosis were brought to a practical conclusion on Friday by the consideration and acceptance of a series of Resolutions embodying the principles of the discussions:

Mr. Malcolm Morris moved that, as tuberculous sputum was the main agent in conveying the virus of tuberculosis, indiscriminate expectoration should be suppressed.

Dr. Sims Woodhead proposed that hospitals and dispensaries should present patients with a leaflet on the prevention of consumption, and should supply and insist on the use of a pocket spittoon.

Dr. Nevin moved in favour of extending the practice of voluntary notification in cases of phthisis, and spoke of the success achieved where it had been adopted.

Sir John Burdon Sanderson proposed a resolution in favour of the establishment of sanatoria for consumptive patients, and urged that they would be valuable for all classes of patients, but especially for the respectable wage-earning class.

Sir Herbert Maxwell moved: That in the opinion of Congress, in the light of the work presented at its sittings, medical officers of health should in no way relax their efforts to prevent the spread of tuberculosis by meat and milk. To which a rider was passed in the following form: That, in view of the doubts thrown on the identity of human and bovine tuberculosis, Government should be requested to institute an immediate inquiry into a matter that was of vital importance to the public health and of great consequence to the agricultural industry.

Professor Crookshank moved to the effect that the defective ventilation, damp, and general insanitary conditions of the houses of the working classes diminished the chances of curing consumption and aided in predisposing and spreading the disease.

Sir William Broadbent moved in favour of the appointment of an International Committee to collect evidence and report on the measures adopted in various countries for the prevention of tuberculosis, to publish a record of scientific research, and to consider and recommend measures of prevention.

Appreciative votes of thanks were then passed by acclamation to those who had organized the Congress.

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