

## Medical Matters.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

#### THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

The campaign now being waged against tuberculosis has been brought into special prominence during the past week by the issue of the final Report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, appointed in 1901, principally in consequence of the statement made by the late Professor Koch, at the International Congress on Tuberculosis, held in London, that the animals inoculated with bacilli derived from human beings were only slightly affected locally, and his inference that human beings were equally resistant to bacilli from a bovine source. The terms of reference for inquiry and report were:—

- (1) Whether the disease in animals and man is one and the same?
- (2) Whether animals and man can be reciprocally infected with it?
- (3) Under what conditions, if at all, the transmission of the disease from animals to man takes place, and what are the circumstances favourable or unfavourable to such transmission.

The Commissioners first under the Chairmanship of the late Sir Michael Foster, and, on his decease, of Sir William Power, K.C.B., have conducted their inquiry on the lines of original investigation. They find:

- (1) That both human and bovine tubercle bacilli may be present at the same time in human beings, but only the bovine bacillus has been found in cattle.

That there are three types of tubercle bacilli—human, bovine, and avian.

The Commission have investigated many instances of fatal tuberculosis in the human subject in which the disease was undoubtedly caused by a bacillus of bovine type and nothing else.

- (2) They pronounce the question as to whether animals and man can be reciprocally affected with tuberculosis to be of considerable difficulty, as though the direct infection of animals from man could be experimentally proved the infection of man from animals could only be a matter of inference. The Commission satisfied themselves that, while the bovine type of bacillus is more virulent than the human, mammals and man can be reciprocally infected with the disease.

- (3) The Commission state that man must clearly be regarded as susceptible to infection from the human and the bovine types of bacilli, but that the unmodified avian bacillus

may be regarded as a negligible factor in the production of human tuberculosis.

#### CONCLUSION.

The Commission feel it their duty to declare the necessity of administrative measures for obtaining security against the transmission of bovine tubercle bacilli by means of food. In the interests of infants and children they consider not only that existing regulations for the supervision of milk production and meat preparation should not be relaxed, but that the Government should enforce, throughout the country, food regulations planned to afford increased security.

#### THE CONTROL OF THE MILK SUPPLY.

The announcement that the President of the Local Government Board intends shortly to introduce a Bill dealing with the milk supply is therefore opportune. So long ago as 1908 Mr. Burns announced that the Government would deal with the question of the milk supply. Let us hope that this year definite legislation will be enacted.

#### VIEW DAY AT FRIMLEY.

It is a happy thought to have an annual "View Day" at Frimley Sanatorium (in connection with the Brompton Consumption Hospital), to which former patients are invited. Last Saturday was "View Day" this year, and of the patients who have been treated there during the last six years, since the Sanatorium was opened, 1,700 reported themselves to the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Marcus S. Paterson, as well and at work, while 230 accepted the invitation to visit Frimley.

The system adopted at Frimley is one of graduated rest, and graduated exercise or work, as Dr. Paterson believes that sanatoria are too often the home of neurotic individuals, mentally and physically deteriorated by long periods of ease and idleness, whereas the introduction of graduated labour transforms them into busy and hopeful men and women.

#### BENEFICIAL EXERCISES.

The work and exercise have been most carefully and scientifically graded, as follows:—

- (1) Walking from one to six miles a day.
- (2) Carrying baskets of mould, watering plants, weeding.
- (3) Light garden work, cutting grass.
- (4) Using a small shovel.
- (5) Using a large shovel.
- (6) Trenching, preparing land for cultivation, felling trees.
- (7) As soon as a patient is considered fit to be discharged he is put to work at his trade, for six hours a day for three weeks, in order to regain the use of the necessary muscles.

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