

## THERE IS SAFETY IN MILK AND BEEF.

Now comes Dr. Koch, before the British congress on tuberculosis, and knocks, or tries to knock, into smithereens another favorite theory of many of the doctors. It is hardly fair to assert that he upsets the theory entirely; but that he combats it in a manner calculated to make it weak, there can be no doubt.

As an esteemed contemporary explains, for several years the meat-eaters and milk-drinkers of the world have been persistently bedeviled with warnings about the danger of eating the flesh or drinking the milk of tuberculous cows. The person who likes milk has suffered especially from this particular bogey. "Smart" people made it a point to advise him against milk, because, said they, one could never tell whether the milk one was drinking came from a tuberculous cow or not. This sort of thing made even the most sensible man feel a trifle uncomfortable when he took his glass of milk. Furthermore, a war was instituted by law against tuberculous cows; and no doubt many millions of dollars have been spent for the purpose of protecting people against a danger which Dr. Koch now declares to have been entirely imaginary.

So far as the meat of tuberculous cattle is concerned, Dr. Reynolds, the Chicago Health Commissioner, has declared that there never was any particular danger from this source, for when cooked it is deprived of the elements of danger. There are doubtless a good many persons who would shudder at the idea of eating beef from tuberculous cattle, especially if they knew it was tuberculous; but Dr. Koch has practically shown that in relation to man bovine tuberculosis is not a disease. As long as we continue to eat meat we need not conjure up the spooks of disease.

Now, if Dr. Koch is right, it seems quite clear that human tuberculosis and bovine tuberculosis are radically different diseases, and that he has demonstrated that cattle can not be infected with human tuberculosis. He also announces his personal conviction that man can not be infected with bovine tuberculosis. He declared that human immunity to bovine infection disposed of the belief of infection through dairy products, and he considered this source of danger so slight as to be unworthy of precaution.

"All this money spent on the testing of cattle has been wasted, so far as the protection of man is concerned," adds the Memphis Commercial Appeal. "He has simply been protected from a myth. He can now go on eating his beef, and drinking his milk, in entire peace of mind. He is not taking dangerous microbes and deadly micro-organisms into his system when he drinks a glass of milk. One scientific scarecrow at least has been dismantled by the German scientist." The Commercial Appeal adds:

Quite a contrast is presented in the attitude of the medical profession toward bovine tuberculosis and its attitude toward smallpox. Nobody has ever proposed to inoculate man with bovine tuberculosis in order to protect him against the possibility of having human tuberculosis. If any one had suggested that all persons should be inoculated with bovine tuberculosis in order to guard against consumption, he would have been pilloried as a monumental ass. Everything, in short, has been done to protect the human body from this particular bovine disease. But with regard to cowpox all has been different. The medical profession has welcomed it into the system as if it were a wedding guest. The poison from this disease has been carefully preserved as one would preserve a precious ointment.

All that the Memphis contemporary must fight out with the doctors. In making its fight it must not set Dr. Koch up against all the rest, and must say nothing to discourage the doctors until they have fully tested all of the theories and discarded at least enough of them to permit man to eat and live.

"Revolution but faintly expresses the effect upon sanitary systems and medical theories of the world that will be caused by the discovery of Dr. Koch of Berlin to the effect that bovine tuberculosis can not be transmitted to the human system," says the Chicago Record-Herald.

Physicians and sanitary experts have long proceeded upon the hypothesis that the human system is inoculated with tubercle by eating the meat or drinking the milk of tuberculous-infected cows. Assuming this to be a scientifically demonstrated fact, nations, States and municipalities have adopted meat and milk inspection laws of the most rigorous character. Boards of health have enjoined upon city and State authorities the most rigid regulations calculated to protect communities from being inoculated with consumption from tuberculosis-infected flesh. Thousands of cattle, supposed to be infected with tuberculosis, have been killed by direction of the State Board of Health.

Dr. Koch has arrived at the conclusion, through what he regards as indisputable tests, that the bovine tubercle is incapable of inoculation into the human body and that mankind's fear of contact with tuberculosis-infected meat or fluid is therefore unfounded. If he is able to demonstrate his claims to the satisfaction of scientists,

humanity's far-reaching preconditions against infected cattle may be abandoned, and even highly educated people may find themselves unable to sleep at night.

---