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TRANSMUTATION OF BOVINE TUBERCLE BACILLI.

Rabinowitsch expresses surprise that so little attention has been paid to the statement of Fraenkel and Krause over ten years ago that they found tubercle bacilli in the bile in five out of eleven tuberculous cadavers, that is, in 45 percent. She has recently examined seventeen cadavers, all with more or less advanced tuberculosis except one in which there was only a calcified mesenteric gland. The intestine was involved in eleven cases, including one with a liver process. Inoculation of guinea-pigs with the bile gave positive results in 70 percent, showing the danger of infection of others from bacilli in the stools as they may come from the bile as well as from swallowed sputum. The bacilli cultivated from the lungs were all of the human type, but those cultivated from the gall-bladder in six cases were of the bovine type in two. She thinks that these findings confirm the assumption of transmutation of one type into another. The tubercle bacilli infecting the body may persist in the original type in one organ while conditions in another organ may modify the type. It seems plausible to assume that bovine infection in children persists in a latent form until the bacilli become modified into the human type—this would explain why the bovine type may be prevalent in children while the human type is almost invariably encountered in adults. The fact that this transmutation outside of the organism has only rarely been observed in experimental

research (O. Bang, Eber, Bongert) does not conflict with this assumption. Nature will not let herself be driven. The practical result of the research reported is a warning against the danger of elimination of tubercle bacilli in the feces from the bile, both in human beings and in cattle. A cow reacting to tuberculin without any apparent disease may infect the milk by bacilli in her feces. The importance of examination of the feces for tubercle bacilli in animals is emphasized by Fraser's recent report that he found infection of the bovine type in 60 percent of sixty-seven children with surgical tuberculosis at Edinburgh. Orth declares that if every tubercle bacillus of the human type could be annihilated at one stroke, yet all the measures in vogue against tuberculosis would have to be kept up just the same as long as bovine tubercle can be transmitted from animals to man.—*Journ. A. M. A.*, *vol. LX*, p. 634.

TYPHOID CARRIERS.

Conradi is convinced that endemic typhoid is maintained by the chronic carriers. Even with the intensive measures for stamping out typhoid introduced into southwestern Germany on an extensive scale in the last few years, it has proved impossible to detect all the chronic carriers. Each epidemic, however, was traced to a chronic carrier, and he states that five out of every hundred typhoid patients is left a chronic carrier. Another fact that has been established beyond question is that four times as many women as men become chronic carriers. He thinks that this has some connection with the fact that women are more predisposed to gall-stones than men; possibly the corset and tight clothes interfering with the circulation may explain the prevalence in women. He states that his experimental and clinical research to discover some way of sterilizing the carriers has failed of results. The only thing that can be done is the constant reminding of chronic carriers of the necessity for care and foresight. Measures for disinfection should be advised exactly the same as for typhoid patients. But his eight years of service in fighting contagious diseases has left him with no illusions as to the carrying out of these measures. This much is known, however, he adds, that the causes of endemic typhoid have now been revealed.—*Journ. A. M. A.*, *Vol. LX*, p. 634.