

THE PLACE OF MILK SANITATION IN SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC HEALTH IN ILLINOIS

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ABSTRACT

This paper reviews the need for control of milk supplies as evidenced by milk-borne epidemics, and discusses the control measures in use. It points out that early attempts to control the milk largely by stipulating the environment under which it is produced have given place to attempts to measure in the milk itself the qualities that make it attractive to the consumer. For instance, richness is indicated by the Babcock test; safety is indicated by the word "Pasteurized" on the bottle cap; cleanliness is indicated by the sediment test; and keeping quality is indicated by the reductase test of the raw milk, which, if desired, may be further corroborated by the use of the bacterial plate count, the Breed and Frost Little plate tests.

Although great progress has been made in the sanitary control of milk supplies in Illinois, more has been accomplished in the larger cities than in the smaller ones, principally through the activities of efficient health agencies that are vigilant in the use of pasteurization and other control measures to protect their milk supplies. The greatest hope for further prevention and reduction of milk-borne disease lies in persuading the smaller cities to avail themselves of the protection that pasteurization offers, and through legislation to place the supervision and control of milk, whether used for pasteurization or sold directly to the consumer in the raw state, under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Public Health.