

of the 18th century and beginning of the 19th century. As veterinary science flourished and became disseminated, a remarkable change took place with reference to judging the meat of diseased animals. While in earlier times up to the 18th century in all civilized countries the meat of diseased animals, with the qualified exception of measly meat, in which tuberculous meat was also included, was considered as dangerous to human health, veterinary science began to demonstrate that much meat which had so long been held to be dangerous was in reality harmless. Gräber rightly says: "It is, however, an old experience in the realm of science that new and surprising truths drag everything with them in unreasoning, blind devotion until geniuses sober down again to a cool, reasonable way of thinking." Thus the veterinary teaching of the harmlessness of meat in cases of certain animal diseases very rapidly matured into a general belief that all meat of diseased animals is harmless.

This erroneous view led to a sudden change of opinion on the question of the regulation of meat inspection. While some governmental authorities sought to overcome the increasing protests against official prohibitions by means of constantly renewed ordinances, an unfortunate indifference manifested itself in the other direction. Thus, a ministerial rescript in Prussia in 1826 declared that it was not permissible to compel non-union butchers to slaughter in an abattoir. It was allowed them to slaughter in their own establishments without restriction, as actually happened in the royal palace. As a result, slaughterhouses gradually fell into disuse in certain cities, and in 1842 none of the three previously established slaughterhouses in Berlin were in existence. It was not until the year 1852 that Küchenmeister established the fact that hog cysticerci were the embryonic stages of *Taenia solium* of man, and that the trichina epidemics which, during the 60's of the previous century, appeared in northern Germany to an alarming extent, again attracted public attention to the necessity of regulating meat inspection. When in the year 1864 a commission of the Berlin Medical Society met for consultation concerning preventive measures against the danger from trichina, they considered it their first duty to recommend the establishment of public slaughterhouses for the preservation of the public health.

In southern Germany meat inspection suffered less from the above described retrogression, as is to be seen from the decrees concerning meat inspection for lower Bavaria, October 21, 1836, and for Swabia and Neuburg, January 10, 1857. In the first named