Mukherjee and Charan[1] while discussing the possible pathogenesis of tuberculosis in young calves, opined that in post-natal calf-hood, tuberculous infection originates from the feeding of contaminated milk containing tubercle bacilli, from contact of calves with open cases of tuberculosis and from the surroundings and animal attendants. In human beings two forms of intestinal tuberculosis are encountered. The first is primary intestinal tuberculosis, a rare form in which tubercle bacilli gain entrance into the body by way of the intestinal tract following ingestion of contaminated food. The second form is secondary intestinal tuberculosis which occurs as a consequence to the complications of pulmonary tuberculosis[8]. In the present case, the infection seems to be a primary intestinal tuberculosis, where it is presumed that the bacilli have gained entry into the body through contaminated milk. The diffuse ulcerative lesions of intestinal tract along with marked enlargement and caseation of the mesentric lymphnodes as described at the necropsy, speaks more in favour of the primary intestinal tuberculosis.

The incubation period of *M. tuberculosis* infection varies from 3–12 weeks[9]. Hence in the present case the chances of developing tuberculosis in post-natal calf-hood is justifiable. This particular animal might have become infected after weaning and by taking infected pooled milk, as is usually adopted as a package of practice at this farm.

The other possibility of infection by inhalation of contaminated dust from the surroundings cannot be ruled out considering the fact that some more animals or attendants might be harbouring the infection. As the overall incidence of tuberculosis in cattle in recent years appears to be increasing[10], immediate necessary steps (tuberculin testing, disinfection of sheds and proper sanitation measures) should be strictly followed to alleviate this chronic problem.

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NEWS

SHELTERED TREES GROW FASTER

This open-ended square section tube, designed to protect young broadleaved trees during their first year, is claimed to offer significant increases in growth, together with protection from the ravages of animals and the vagaries of the weather. The Somerford Sheltatree is of extruded poly-propylene, a translucent plastics corrugated in section, with an air space between inner and outer skins; it contains an ultra violet inhibitor, giving it an outdoor life of five years. The shelter, secured by special clip to a stake, initially totally encloses the young planted-out tree to provide a protected environment similar to that of a greenhouse. It is available in square or hexagonal form in heights from 1.2 m to 1.8 m. (*British Industrial News, No. 144, January 1984, p. 26*).