

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Although it is encouraging and pleasing to note the progress realized, the success obtained, we must not believe the task is done, and that all obstacles have vanished. For instance, the adoption of measures requisite to put into practice the solution of a question of sanitation, collides with two great and serious obstacles ; expenditure and personal interests. Such is the case when measures for quarantine, isolation, disinfection, the cleansing of towns and seaports, the prohibition of adulterated food, etc., are put into force.

Quarantine, so needful to protect against the invasion of exotic epidemic diseases, is no longer, thanks to the progress of hygiene, what it was formerly ; detention is shorter, I may say, practically suppressed by our modern methods of effective disinfection ; but, nevertheless, even the slightest delay in the unloading of a ship begets expense, and brings constraint on personal interests.

I might say the same of the other measures mentioned ; each calls for expenditure of money, time and labour, and is sure to affect the interests of some one.

In this way, opposition is brought to bear on the introduction of would-be effectual means of protection, by persons who are really wronged, or believe themselves so. On the other hand, these for whom protection is sought, are mostly indifferent to the labour and worry that is expended for their safety.

It is not surprising, then, that governments and parliaments should often hesitate, and frequently withdraw their support. On one side, they have small reason and light pressure to act ; on the other, great influence is thrust forward to make them desist.

What is here needed to insure success is the voice of authoritative knowledge and teaching ; and congresses of sanitary science, such as this one, composed as they are of eminent and influential men, can alone furnish cogent authority.

To the pretensions of interested individuals who often, in an exaggerated manner, plead expense and trespass on their private affairs, and to the hesitating, faltering governments that listen to those reclamations and are made to doubt the utility,