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that the attempt to maintain it does more harm than good, in leading to numberless contraband practices by which the disease may be introduced in unsuspected ways. None of this is true when applied to the exclusion of Asiatic cholera from this country; while to accept the statements unquestioned would cause vigilance to be relaxed, would invite contagion to our shores unimpeded, and would finally throw upon individual communities the burden and the responsibility of fighting the disease at an immense disadvantage—that is, of fighting it at home and from many quarters, instead of on the outer lines and from only one direction.

Those outer lines, even with some defects and weak places, I believe to be even now sufficiently strong to keep out the disease if proper vigilance and thoroughness be exercised, if all the facilities be utilized, and if timely notification of threatened danger be given by the National government.

The next year or two, however, will furnish a tolerably conclusive test of the efficiency of quarantine to exclude the pestilence from this country.

#### IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF THE INSPECTION.

During the progress of the inspection it was observed that the comparisons instituted and the information furnished prompted quarantine officers and health authorities to avail themselves of facilities previously overlooked or neglected, and to put themselves in communication with each other for purposes of mutual coöperation and support. At many of the stations those in charge invited criticism and suggestions, while others would not rest satisfied until their facilities and appliances were made more complete. Suggested improvements have already been made in many instances and others will doubtless be secured.

Not the least among the good results which are already perceptible is the recognition of the fact that the administration of quarantine at a given port is not a purely local measure; but that the country back of it, and communities distant in space but in close proximity in point of time, are also interested. Since States and communities continue to control maritime quarantine, and in many instances are jealous even of a suggestion of Federal interference, it is right that they should recognize the full import of their obligations. Nor should they overlook the fact that these distant communities have the power to both help and punish. Illinois, for example, by recently refusing entrance to immigrants coming through ports which were lax in enforcing vaccinal protection, furnished a powerful argument to the quarantine officers at such ports whereby they secured compliance with their requirements by the steamship companies. This reflex action may be carried still further. If a port or locality should notoriously disregard the precautions necessary to prevent the access of cholera it would be an obvious duty of self-protection not only to exclude immigrants but to cut off all intercourse with such port or locality. With the danger of such a contingency clearly recognized the authorities would not only be apt to exercise proper vigilance, but all transportation and commercial agencies—railroads and steamships—would become quarantine aids. Captains and officers would have an additional incentive