

open air currents without losing their infective properties. . . .

A consideration of all the recorded facts of the dissemination of disease particles leads me to the conclusion :—

First, That as long as these particles are immersed in liquid media they are innocuous, unless the liquids which contain them gain access to water supply or to the food supply.

Secondly, That when such infectious matters, whether belonging to the first class, with dry germs, or to the second class, with wet germs, are emptied into a water closet and washed into the sewers, they are not likely to be carried back into the houses by the air currents of the sewers, even where the house drains and soil pipes are untrapped. I would guard myself, however, from asserting that such an occurrence may not happen, although in Glasgow there is a singular absence of proof that it does happen.

Thirdly, Where the house drains and soil pipes are properly trapped with water traps, no currents of sewer air can carry back infectious particles unless they force the trap, an occurrence which should be impossible in the case of properly constructed sewers and house drains.

In conclusion, I wish to guard myself from misconstruction, by stating that I am strongly of the opinion that it is a dangerous thing to breathe an atmosphere habitually tainted with sewage gases. It leads to more serious and lasting evils than the passing outbreak of a specific disease. I believe that the breathing of an impure atmosphere, although not the cause, is *one of the most important factors* in the production of the numerous organic degenerations, of which tubercular disease of the lungs may be taken as the type.

THE NEW NATIONAL QUARANTINE LAW.

AN ACT TO PERFECT THE QUARANTINE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever any person shall trespass upon the grounds belonging to any quarantine reservation, or whenever any person, master, pilot, or owner of a vessel entering any port of the United States, shall so enter in violation of section one of the act entitled "An Act to prevent the introduction of contagious and infectious diseases into the United States," approved April twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, or in violation of the quarantine regulations framed under said act, such person, trespassing, or such master, pilot, or other person in command of a vessel, shall, upon conviction thereof, pay a fine of not more than three hundred dollars, or be sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not more than thirty days, or shall be punished by both fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court. And it shall be the duty of the United States attorney in the district where the misdemeanor shall have been committed to take immediate