

decay, and hoped the Association would be strong in condemnation; but he held that Dr. Smith had done all that could be done with the resources at his command. On the evening before (the evening of the first day), our gentle Dr. Sternberg had intimated that he did not want to hurt anybody's feelings, but that he would like to give an account, (which he did), of how a New York quarantine officer "with a jug," came on board a ship on which he (Dr. Sternberg) was a passenger, in order to disinfect it, and that the "disinfection" had consisted of lowering "into the vast space" between the decks a bucket which "contained two or three pounds of some powder which had been wet, probably with an acid solution." "The only object that I could conceive of," said Dr. Sternberg, regarding this procedure, "depends upon the fact that there is a fee for disinfecting, which must be paid by the agents of the ship."

Hardly less ridiculous was the description given by Dr. Bell of the method pursued by Dr. Smith and himself of disinfecting the contents of an ocean steamer in a box the size of a respectable dry-goods packing-case. It was a little less ridiculous inasmuch as the disinfection of each boxful was thorough; and a little more ridiculous inasmuch as it was a semi-official account of the picayune mode of quarantine disinfection of the commercial metropolis of the Western Hemisphere.

Some merriment was caused by the answer to a question, the purport of which was to ascertain if the State Board of New York had taken any action in view of the recent occurrences in New York city. Dr. Bell began to reply, "Yes, they passed a resolution in 1884." There appeared to be some misunderstanding between questioner and respondent, but the meeting seemed to take the answer as in ludicrous harmony with the rest of the proceedings of the health authorities of New York. The discussion was opened by a paper on "Cholera and Quarantine," by Dr. Rauch, in which he gave an account of the kind of quarantine, disinfection and inspection in vogue in New York, and also of his telegraphic correspondence and of the circulars issued by him to the New York quarantine commissioners and to the railway officials, and of the proceedings of the Philadelphia Committee of Enquiry. His account of the dilatoriness and want of straightforward confidence on the part of the New York Health officer,

gave me an opportunity of asking—after I presented the resolutions of our Board—whether the agreement made in Toronto, regarding immediate inter-state notification had been observed. Dr. McCormack replied that it had been observed by all states except New York. He subsequently introduced a pretty strong resolution which was extended and modified by the Executive Committee as follows:—

"Whereas this association has heard with regret "that after four years of warning, Asiatic cholera "found the authorities at the port of New York very "inadequately prepared to deal with it; and,

"Whereas the faithful administration of the "quarantine regulations of all ports, and especially "of the port of New York, is at this time of the "highest importance to the whole country; therefore, be it

"RESOLVED, that the quarantine authorities of "our maritime ports be urged to exercise the greatest "possible caution in admitting ships from infected "parts to free pratique.

"RESOLVED, that these quarantine authorities be "requested to co-operate with state and municipal "boards of health in the effort to prevent the spread "of contagious and infectious diseases from ports at "which they may exist by furnishing to the health "authorities of communities having relations with "such ports, prompt information as to all real or "suspected cases, and if immigrants, their destination and routes of travel."

During the meeting the several plans of dealing with infection from abroad by means of a National Bureau, by means of the U. S. Marine Hospital Service, and by increased State vigilance were urged by their respective advocates, and each received helpful resolutions (how helpful remains to be seen). There was one speech and suggestion which loses something of its *vim* on paper: it is a pity the universal telephone could not have been at the ear of all interested, when Dr. C. N. Hewitt, of Red Wing, Minnesota, in thundering and fist-hammering tones intimated that the interior States would have to "put the screws on New York" by demanding lists and destinations of immigrants and cutting off at their respective borders all railway lines from New York until the necessary precautions are complied with. On my way home I was informed by Dr. De Wolf of Chicago that he had been obliged to undertake a thorough disin-