

TENTH.—The character of the people, with special reference to whether or not they really appreciate the importance of maintaining proper health conditions in the city and whether or not there is a powerful public sentiment that can be brought to bear upon the city government in regard to such questions.

The method of procedure was first to interview the chief health officer and obtain from him as much information as possible bearing upon general sanitary conditions. After that as far as might be necessary the city engineer, the superintendent of water works, the bacteriologist and any others who might be able to give further and more definite information in regard to the subjects investigated were interviewed. The remaining time in each place was spent in making a personal observation of actual conditions. In seventeen cities the water plants were actually visited—although as a rule these plants are several miles outside of the city limits. The bacteriological laboratories were visited and their equipment and working methods studied, and in most cases where garbage was dumped on vacant lots the actual conditions were investigated in order to see to what extent the health of the community was endangered. In looking into the water system and the sewage system the worst sections of the city were selected and then some tumble-down, old dwelling picked out to see whether or not it had city water and whether or not there was connection with the sewer, and particularly whether or not on the same premises there was a well supplying surface water and a closet unconnected with the sewer, with the probability of drainage from the closet to the well. The writer wanted to see for himself how actual conditions in regard to these matters which have such an important bearing upon the health of the community coincided with the impressions conveyed by the one hundred or more officials that he had interviewed. As a rule, it was found that the officials were disposed to give the information asked for, and in the main to state the facts even if they were unfavorable—although naturally there was a disposition to give a favorable impression. However, there was frequently cause for surprise at the frankness of the officials in cases where conditions were

very bad. Occasionally some valuable information was obtained from the head of one department letting the truth out rather boldly in regard to the situation in some other department, and occasionally the investigation was helped along to a considerable extent by the officials in one city asking if this or that particular situation had been discovered in the last city visited or suggesting that this or that point in the next city be looked into with special care.

Of course, two or three weeks might have been spent profitably in each city. The writer was gone only nine weeks and had only two or three days in each city. It was a physical impossibility in this short time to thoroughly study all the conditions bearing upon the sanitary situation in the cities visited, but the main object was to find out what the city authorities were doing toward taking advantage of the latest developments in modern sanitary science in order to properly protect the health of their citizens. Upon the whole, after a little experience, it was found that it did not take very long, with the aid of the officials and by personal investigation, to reach a fairly correct idea of the general situation in each place—its strong points and its weak points. To summarize the general conclusions in regard to the points which particularly attracted attention and which were particularly investigated:

*First.*—The evidence found practically everywhere (particularly through the Southern States) that there had been a most wonderful improvement in the general sanitary conditions during the past ten or twenty years. In fact, it is hardly an exaggeration to say that nine-tenths of the progress in the places visited has been made within twenty years. It should be borne in mind that scientific methods of disposing of city garbage, scientific methods of purifying drinking water, and scientific methods of dealing with infectious and contagious diseases by making use of the discoveries in bacteriology are, for all practical purposes, almost entirely developments of the last ten years.

*Second.*—The possibility of still further progress in the next ten years.

*Third.*—The evidence that the cities in the South in proportion to their means