

special systematic lung exercise. He said the Maine St. Bd. of Health had followed, quite recently, the plan of Dr. Playter, of distributing leaflets filled with popular information on ways of preventing the spread or inception of pulmonary disease."

Before the close of the discussion Dr. Playter said a few words in reply to Dr. Kretzschmar. He thought it clear that the best authorities now believed that the influence of heredity had been altogether overestimated, and that the testimony of the entire profession goes towards proving that the disease is not inherited. A predisposition is found in want of general stamina, resulting largely if not mainly from limited respiratory capacity and hence want of due oxygenation of the blood, which is inherited and in which condition the body cannot resist the encroachments of the infecting bacilli. Life insurance companies had found that many applicants, rejected on account of supposed heredity, had out lived accepted risks free from suspicion, and now laid much less stress on the heredity theory. Dr. Playter thought we might about as well regard other infectious diseases as hereditary; as where would we find a case of scarlet fever, for example, in which the patient was not the offspring of parents who also had had this disease. The almost universal fatality of consumption drew more attention to this point of heredity in this affection.

#### SULPHUROUS DISINFECTION.

Dr. Cryus Edson of New York Board of Health read a paper of much interest on the use of sulphur dioxide as a disinfectant. He had found this of great importance in tenement house work against contagion in New York. A good deal of unnecessary discussion followed; a few throwing doubt on the efficacy of this agent. Mr. Henry R. Gray, of Montreal, told about its use in successfully stamping out the terrible epidemic in that city. He said sulphur dioxide was of doubtful value only in the case of diphtheria. The facts seem to be that sulphur may be relied upon to destroy the germs of scarlet fever, measles and small-pox, but not so surely those of diphtheria.

Dr. Edson explained that in New York when a room was to be disinfected three pounds of sulphur was used for every

1,000 cubic feet of air— $\frac{1}{4}$  flowers of sulphur and  $\frac{3}{4}$  stick sulphur. The sulphur was put on a dish in a tub of water, four ounces of alcohol to every three pounds was poured over it, and the alcohol was ignited.

Dr. Durgin, the Medical Officer of Boston, stated that he had used sulphur as a disinfectant for twenty-two years and he was emphatic in his endorsement of it.

Dr. John H. Rauch, of Chicago, sent in the following preamble and resolution: Whereas, Asiatic cholera, leaving its usual restricted bounds threatens to advance by the same lines that it has followed in the last four epidemics, be it, *Resolved* That the American Public Health Association desires to call renewed attention to this fact, and to urge that quarantine authorities on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboards and Boards of Health throughout the country make every effort to prepare for this threatened danger. These have been, it appears, already acted upon.

In the evening, a paper on "Sanitary Entombment," by the Rev. Charles R. Treat, of New York, was presented; another on Railway sanitation by Dr. Samuel W. Latta, medical examiner for the Pennsylvania Railroad Voluntary Relief Department; and a third on the Sanitary Interests of the United States Demanding the Acquisition of Cuba, by Dr. Lee, Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Board of Health. This last, like some of the other papers, although of much interest to the people in the more southern part of the continent, is not of much interest in Canada.

Americans eat more than is required for the maintenance of health, was the pith of the paper on "Food in its Relations to Health," by Prof. W. O. Atwater, of Washington, D. C.

The fourth day was chiefly a sort of business day, and devoted to the appointment of officers, committees, &c., and the discussion and passing of resolutions of various kinds. Dr. Baker., Sect. of the Michigan State Board of Health, was elected president and Dr. Montizambert, chief Dominion Quarantine officer, first vice president. In the afternoon the convention adjourned to meet in Charleston S. C. in November 1890. It is hoped and believed by some that the Association will meet in Montreal in 1891. Why not in Ottawa?