

(f) On being informed of infectious disease, he shall investigate and take such action as shall limit its spread.

(g) He shall superintend the Inspector of Nuisances.

(h) He shall inspect meat, fish, vegetables, etc., personally if the occasion demands it.

(i) He shall examine into all classes of offensive trades within the district, as factories, dairies, cow-sheds, milk-shops.

(j) He shall report of all matters from time to time, giving such returns of outbreaks and causes as is possible.

(k) He shall report to the Central Board any dangerous outbreak, and annually on all matters, including schools.

In France the district Councils of Hygiene are charged in addition to such as above, specifically :

(1) With powers for formulating plans for the suppression of epizootic diseases of animals.

(2) The spread of vaccination.

(3) The care of the indigent sick.

(4) Local inspection of hospitals, asylums, prisons, etc.

(5) Construction of public buildings, as schools, prisons, reservoirs, sewers, cemeteries.

(6) Obtain statistics of mortality, morbidity, topographical conditions, etc.

This is certainly a very liberal bill of fare for a local health authority, and one cannot fail to think that if such matters demand public attention at all, they will demand not only all the time, but all the energies and intelligence of a medical officer of health with accomplishments of no mean order.

If we group the work we see that it includes :

1. General inspection. With regard to drainage, an officer must know accurately about soils and ground water ; with regard to mill-ponds, standing water, and organic deposits and refuse, he must be in a position to positively state what conditions are and have been proved, scientifically,

positively injurious and give his reasons.

2. Suppression of contagious disease. He must have method and nerve enough to see that dangerous contagious diseases are reported to him, whether of men or of animals, and have so thoroughly the confidence of his medical confreres and the public as to his disinterestedness, scientific attainments and practical abilities, as that all excuse from any standpoint for oversight on the part of practitioners or public will be removed. To dwell on this for a moment, we see that his work demands (a) medical experience ; (b) training and skill to diagnose in the laboratory by microscope, bacteriological cultures and chemical examinations, the special cause and source of diseases, principally the following : —Diphtheria, typhoid, tuberculosis, actinomycosis, trichina, cysticercus (measles in hogs), hog cholera, ptomaines in cases of poisoning from cheese, meat, milk, etc. It is needless to say that this work not only demands the highest skill, but it also demands laboratory facilities. (c) The isolation, and, where necessary, the removal of infectious disease to hospitals, the destruction of infected animals, and the disinfection of infected centres, whether houses, schools, workshops, stables, etc. This necessarily demands isolation hospitals, and sufficient assistance by inspectors to have work systematically carried out.

3. Inspection of foods, noxious trades, etc. This work, both difficult and constant, demands that slaughter-houses and their surroundings, cheese factories, cow byres, piggeries, knackeries, and other specially noxious trades be kept under the strictest supervision. The medical health officer must know, and have inspectors who know, diseased meat, and how diseased, must be able to accurately state what foods are injurious to milch cows, what stable surroundings are good and what bad, and be able to diagnose diseased conditions in cows.