

obtained footing in a community such as ours. The present outbreak in the United States and Canada is proof of this. Starting, as the epidemic has done, in the United States, it is impossible to imagine that Canada, with its geographical relationship to that country, could be kept free by any police measures. The extent of the boundary line, ignorance of the signs and symptoms of the disease on the part of physicians and public, together with lack of conscience on the part of individuals, must neutralize to a greater or less extent the efforts of Health Board officials. Especially is the difficulty great, where, as between these two countries, individual commercial interests may seem to be imperilled by regulations.

Improved measures of sanitation have been given by anti-vaccinationists, a large part of the credit for any diminution in smallpox epidemics and mortality noticeable in the past. It is argued that the great falling off in extent, severity and mortality, seen in the early part of the nineteenth century, as compared with the eighteenth, is due largely to sanitary measures, not to vaccination. It is also true that certain "cosmic" or "secular" influences are said to govern more or less the incidence and extent of epidemics, but so far as our present knowledge goes, absolutely no proof has been adduced in support of this contention, and it may therefore be set aside. A general answer to the "Sanitation Theory" is found in the fact that the decrease spoken of occurred in countries where there is no evidence that sanitation made any progress during these years, but in which vaccination became general. (V. Report of R. Com. on Vaccination, pp. 85, *et seq.*) It is also noteworthy that certain other infectious diseases which are, undoubtedly, quite as much controllable by police and sanitary measures as smallpox, or even more so—measles, for instance, increased during the very years when these means are given the credit of having diminished smallpox to a marked extent. Moreover, it is worth while remembering that smallpox attacks the cleanly and those careless of personal cleanliness, the healthy and unsound impartially. A sane body apparently assists to a favorable termination of the disease, but not in an appreciable extent to resistance of infection. Infection may occur through contact, food, drink or be air borne. It is not difficult to believe that careful observance on the part of *all*, of certain well considered rules based upon scientific experiment may, to a large extent, control the spread of disease through the first three modes of infection, but in the case of aerial carriage of germs it is not supposable that we can at all successfully intervene. In the case of smallpox we are at special disadvantage on account of the wonderful infectiveness of the virus and its power of clinging to person or clothing, so that