

accounting; thus showing not only what each branch of his work costs in cash, but what it returns, not in cash of course, but in saving of death and disease. I suggest for this form of accounting, but merely as a beginning, the tabulation of death and disease in the community against the infractions of the sanitary code, following in this the plan followed in Port Hope. For the technical accounting all that is essential at present is listing all infractions of the sanitary code found on dwelling premises; listing the deaths and diseases found on the same premises; dividing the total deaths on those premises by the total of those premises; doing the same with the diseases reported; and comparing these figures with similar figures from the rest of the community, the law-keeping portion.

Other methods for studying such figures will quickly suggest themselves; each individual death or case of disease may be tabulated against the individual infraction of the code which occurred on the premises concerned, and so on. But in any case do as is here suggested for a beginning.

Let me say that I am not indicting the requirements of the Sanitary code; they are good rules for community living; not do I deny that, at times, some of the things they forbid are factors in the spread of disease. What I insist on is this; having limited time, money and energy for public health service in most places, it is the acme of folly to spend most of that little upon the least paying procedures instead of the best. If you were in a burning building trying to help the poor inmates, what folly to throw the baby out of the window and carry an old can of garbage carefully down in your arms!

Just that in essence, nothing better, makes up one-half of our present day health work.

Nuisances, unæsthetic conditions, even such matters as really at times may be factors in the spread of disease, should be classed in police work, so long as they constitute simple infractions of simple and definite civil laws.* Public health men have their hands quite enough filled in searching for, dealing with, the infractions of Nature's laws which they encounter. The tracing of disease through its routes to its sources, the care of those sources to prevent further spread of disease; the study of health in the human, the securing thus of health for the race, — these are far more well worth our doing than fussing with untidy backyards or forcing

* Amongst those which have some bearing on the reduction of death and disease, I would class prevention of fly-carriage of infection, by screening all outdoor toilets, or better, by substituting for them toilets connected with a sewer.