

of history has informed you of how uniformly epidemics follow trade routes. So while people elsewhere sympathized with those of New Orleans in their trouble, they had no desire to import from that city a disease which in some epidemics has killed four out of every five people that it attacked, and there was prompt demand from all parts of the American South that efficient measures be instituted to eradicate the disease. Response came from the United States Public Health Service, and the conduct of the campaign was characteristic. Under Surgeon White, a corps of twenty commissioned medical officers and fifty acting assistant surgeons was organized, and this corps employed no less than fourteen hundred men in various capacities. New Orleans has a population of about 325,000 people, and those of you who have been there know that the surface system of drainage, the plan of storing water in tanks outside the houses, and the density of vegetation in many places, all greatly favour the mosquito. When White assumed control, there were two hundred cases of yellow fever in the city, and six hundred other cases had been reported before his arrival. The campaign was short, sharp and decisive, and in a marvellously short space of time the city was free from the disease and the advantage of thorough and sufficient organization had a new demonstration.

Comment has more than once been made upon the providential delay in the completion of the Isthmian Canal. You know the frightful mortality amongst those who were engaged at this work under DeLesseps, much of which was due to yellow fever. Had the undertaking been completed at the time originally intended, the short cut for navigation would inevitably have led to the conveyance of the disease to the filthy seaports of China, the Malay Peninsula and India. At present the long trip around the Horn or the Cape takes shipping into latitudes which are fatal to the mosquito, which carries the infectious element of the disease, but the canal route will keep vessels for a long time in the tropics and in the home of the yellow fever mosquito. As this insect is by no means averse to travelling by vessel, and as vessels bound for the countries I have mentioned will complete their course in warm latitudes, it can at once be