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COMMENT FROM MONTH TO MONTH.

What the Local Health Officer Can Do in the Prevention of Typhoid Fever is well set out in the *Public Health Reports* of the United States, by Dr. L. L. Lumsden. As others have said before, typhoid fever is a disgrace to civilization, and its prevention is one of the greatest problems with which sanitarians have to deal.

That its mortality is a large one is seen from a comparison of statistics of different countries. In Scotland, for the period of 1901-1905, the mortality was 6.2 per 100,000 of the population; Germany, 7.6; England and Wales, 11.2; Belgium, 16.8; Austria, about 19.9; Hungary, 28.3; Italy, 35.2; in the United States estimated at about 46.0.

The incidence of typhoid fever in any community to any great degree stirs up the lay mind, which then becomes alive to the dangers of an extensive outbreak. Then the question is asked, why was it not prevented; and woe betide the hapless health officer if he has not kept a keen edge upon his observations.

Epidemiologic studies go to show that this is a communicable disease, spread from person to person. Germs from the excreta gain access in some way to the alimentary canal from typhoid fever patients and bacillus carriers; and there seems no reason to doubt