

The work connected with disinfection was formally in charge of the Director of the Bacteriological Laboratories, and the methods employed are still determined in the laboratories. The details of execution, however, are now entrusted to the Chief Inspector of Contagious Diseases.

Every case of contagious disease reported is regularly inspected by the medical inspector of the department assigned to the district in which it occurs, and when consent can be obtained, such cases are removed to the department hospitals, and when necessary, the removal to the hospital is enforced. A comparatively small proportion of the total cases, however, are actually treated in the hospitals for contagious diseases. After completion of the illness, or transfer of the patient, thorough disinfection is performed in the apartment, and all infected materials are removed to the disinfection station for destruction, or disinfection by steam. After treatment they are returned to the owner, no charge being made for the services. Disinfection is compulsory in every case.

The inspection work of the Health Department is carried on by a number of different corps of inspectors attached to the various divisions of the department. These inspectors are in part medical men, and in part they are non-medical men, who have had special training in the work to which they are detailed. The medical corps includes the district medical inspectors, the district and special vaccinators, the inspectors for the administration of diphtheria antitoxin, the diagnosticians, the summer corps of inspectors, the medical inspectors of schools, and several special inspectors of lodging houses, public institutions, etc. These various corps, with the exception of the summer corps and the school inspectors, are permanent and are on duty throughout the year. The school inspectors are on duty only through the school year, and the work of the summer corps is limited to July and August. There are also a number of corps of sanitary and food inspectors, not necessarily medical men. These include the inspectors of plumbing and ventilation, the sanitary police, the inspectors of offensive trades, the inspectors of meat, fish, milk and food, and the inspectors of mercantile establishments.

The functions of most of these different corps are, for our purpose, sufficiently indicated by the name. It may be here added, however, that under the law creating the corps of inspectors of mercantile establishments, definite provisions are made as to employment of women and children in such establishments, and the time, nature and condition of such employment.