

patient during the infectious period do not themselves become capable of transmitting the disease for a period of twelve to eighteen days—so that a community to which a patient suffering from the disease has come may be visited with impunity for at least ten days thereafter. The incubation period in the human being,—that is, the time elapsing after the bite by an infected mosquito before the development of the disease—varies from forty-one hours to five days and seventeen hours, so that one who has passed six days after having been bitten by infected mosquitos is safe from any danger of developing the disease. In consequence of this knowledge quarantine regulations have been greatly modified, much hardship and expense have been saved, and yet efficiency has been largely increased.

The wonderful record established in Cuba after Reid's discovery must still be fresh in your memory. You cannot have forgotten the sensational manner in which the campaign against yellow fever was waged in Cuba, and how in a very few months the island, which for one hundred and fifty years had been scourged by the disease, was made absolutely free from it. And then there was the second object lesson—the return of the disease after several years, when the Cubans, under self government became neglectful; to be followed by a third lesson in the second disappearance of the disease when the Americans again assumed the direction of affairs. In infectious diseases it is particularly true that "eternal vigilance is the price of freedom," and the war against them, to be effective, must be vigorous and unrelenting—no truce being permissible, and no end short of complete extermination being worth consideration.

Only a few years ago, yellow fever became epidemic in New Orleans. Do you know how the matter was dealt with? When it became evident that the local health authorities were unable to cope with the conditions, there was no hesitation about interference on the part of the federal authorities. Sickness in epidemic form does not concern alone the locality in which it develops—the whole nation to a greater or less extent is affected thereby. You business men know how quickly business suffers because of an epidemic of disease in a trade centre, and your reading