

residential sections, were adequate for their then purpose. Population, railways, extension of trade in a dozen directions within a few years have changed locally the whole face of things. The store-keeper prospers and moves up town; the houses on the street become a store or a tenement. Let a city's increase be 10,000, or, as in some cases 100,000, a year, and these changes become almost magical. It is now not a question alone of what is to be done, but how is it to be done? Rents rise, there is actually a famine in houses; even those persons of a fair income are forced to combine in many instances their housing, both from necessity and from expense. To say that such conditions are taken advantage of by the house-owner and house-agent is but to say what under the law of supply and demand is natural and logical. To understand that the unscrupulous will conspire and organize to intensify these conditions is what, under the prevailing ideas of competition being the life of trade, is only to be expected. What the usurer, the agent of the usurer, and what even so-called philanthropists and religious corporations have permitted and may still be permitting, in this exploiting of the poor has been, since the days of the Chartists, the subject of scathing criticism and censure alike by poets, novelists and writers of every sort, and yet the evils continue, and very few are seriously expecting any amelioration of the conditions. A recent newspaper article, dealing with certain scandals in which the politicians were involved, said, whether it was with regard to trusts or insurance companies, that the people got about the kind of political representatives and legislation that they wished for or were worthy of. The statement may be true in a sense, but such can in no way remove from those who have a sense of responsibility the duty of exercising it wherever and whenever it becomes possible in relation to society. Naturally, such applies to us as members of this Association, no matter to what section of public health work we apply ourselves. As federal officers, in control of the inspection of immigrants, it is apparent that the responsibilities are enormous. Shipping companies, booking agencies, employers of contract labor, organized schemes for assisting immigrants and others for preying upon them, whether in transit or after landing on our shores, are all playing their parts in inducing immigrants to seek this Western Eldorado. Senor Mosso, in a recent article on Italian emigration, has stated that there were at one time more than ten thousand agents in Italy actively promoting emigration from that country. To these agencies must be added the yet far larger and more effective influence of the immigrant, who, having arrived, encourages and aids his relatives and friends to come to him. To oppose, therefore, to some extent the evil results which naturally arise from these multiplied influences, the United States Government has for