

tuberculosis alone they would be invaluable. The more I examine sputum the more certain I am that the tubercle bacilli appear very early in the sputum in tuberculosis of the lungs for I have demonstrated them repeatedly in the face of almost negative physical signs. Further, such laboratories would do effective service in connection with diphtheria diagnosis and with the serum diagnosis test for typhoid fever, besides making examination of the milk and water supplies and being a court of resort in questions relating to meat supplies. Certainly this work can all be done in the central laboratory but it would mean an increase of staff there and a longer time before answers could be submitted to distant correspondents. The cost would not be increased by the establishment of branch laboratories at those centres where laboratories already exist as at London and Kingston.

It has always seemed to me that our present system of administering to the public health was, while democratic, exceedingly deficient. Our municipalities have control of their local health boards and of course the first demand in many localities is for cheapness not for efficiency. Too often the local boards are apathetic, often ignorant and as stated by a member last year too much under the influence of local politics to take a firm and efficient stand. I know of one town which has appointed a medical officer of a type rarely seen now-a-days. This man explains the prevalence of typhoid fever, scarlet fever and measles by an "epidemic constitution of the atmosphere" and of course thinks individuals so affected (air-struck I might term it) cannot avoid such diseases. Isolation for him, is only necessary because the law says it must be carried out. Without doubt there is sufficient sanitary work in each county to engage all the time and attention of a qualified sanitarian. The great cry is the expense but I think such an officer would more than pay his way in lessening the amount of sickness and diminishing the death rate from those causes which are avoidable.

At present in cases of emergency the local boards depend in great measure on central authority and as it takes time to communicate with such authorities and get officials on the spot, valuable time is often lost through ignorance. Remember I