

over a hundred pharmacies in the city, to which it is consigned, the price being fixed by the Health Department in all cases, and 10 per cent. on the sales allowed to the pharmacies as commission.

The special antitoxin fund made possible the establishment of a hospital and research bacteriological laboratory devoted to the production of diphtheria antitoxin and other bacteriological products and to general experimental investigations in relation to the infectious diseases. This work now includes the production of tetanus and streptococcus antitoxins, mallein and tuberculin (used by the Department in the diagnosis respectively of glanders and tuberculosis in animals) and numerous experimental investigations regarding the infectious diseases, especially diphtheria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis and small-pox.

In October, 1896, arrangements were completed for placing at the command of the physicians of New York City Widal's test for the diagnosis of typhoid fever, after the method of Wyatt Johnston, of Montreal, and recently arrangements have also been made for the administration of Pasteur's treatment for the prevention of rabies. A better idea, perhaps, of the extent of the work performed in the laboratories of the Health Department of New York City may be obtained from the following statistical statement of some of the routine work:

During the year 1896, 25,049 cultures were examined for diphtheria bacilli; 1,856 specimens of sputum from cases of suspected tuberculosis were examined for tubercle bacilli; 16,796 vials of diphtheria antitoxin were issued, and 918 cases of diphtheria were treated in their homes by the medical *attachés* of the laboratory, and 1,214 persons immunized.

The scientific staff of the bacteriological and vaccine laboratories now includes twenty-five physicians, one chemist and two veterinarians in addition to clerical and laboratory assistants and attendants.

A special laboratory and stable are devoted to the production of bovine vaccine virus, and this is freely distributed and vaccination is done free of charge by the medical officers of the Department. Special investigations undertaken in this laboratory have resulted in the production of a glycerinated vaccine pulp of great activity and durability and unusual freedom from contaminating micro-organisms. This vaccine pulp has entirely displaced the virus prepared by drying on quills or ivory points generally employed.