

attempted the laborious task of subdividing the death-rates for that year. I regard the dual system, if fairly considered on its merits (or demerits), as unequivocally doomed."

On the other hand, at a late meeting of the Yorkshire Association of Sanitary Inspectors, Dr. Goldie, (Med. Of. Leeds,) in a paper on this subject, said: What are we asking for? The answer was simple and brief—the compulsory notification of the existence of infectious diseases, such notification to be made to sanitary officers throughout the kingdom. In this matter he was not an advocate of local measures, although there were now more than forty large towns in possession of local Acts, and he was willing to admit of their limited usefulness. It would at once be conceded that the seven principal zymotic diseases were dangerously infectious, and who, he asked, was there either in the profession or out of it, who would object to the best practicable means being employed to arrest the spread of those infections? Yet he asserted as a fact that the great majority of houses were absolutely inadequate for the purposes of isolation. He considered it could not be regarded as less dangerous to allow deadly infection the chance of spreading than it would be to allow an express train to start with its human freight without notice or without proper danger signals. The present rapid means of transit from town to town and from one country to another were rendered simple and safe, because due notice was given of the start and of the coming. The result of these precautions was that the danger of travelling had been reduced to an almost infinitesimal fraction. The great railway and marine authorities had responded to the demands made upon them for public security by notifying at every stage of their journeys that danger was on the wing, and must be met with the safest and most speedy means of isolating it. If infectious diseases broke out on board any ship, it had to be notified and stringent means carried into force before the vessel could come into port. The same form of notification applied to the canal boat traffic. Another proof of the necessity for the

step was found in the orders relating to the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1878. Having acted as inspector for Leeds since 1878, he could testify not only to the wisdom of these Acts, but to the ready manner in which owners complied with the requirements. Speedy isolation was the first aim and object in these cases, as it was with compulsory notification of the infectious diseases in human beings. Dr. Goldie here proceeded to narrate instances showing the necessity for notification, and the serious consequences arising from the want of it. His experiences led him to look upon the objections to compulsory notification as more of a sentimental character than anything else. To compel anyone to notify that a member or members of their family were infected with certain diseases was alleged to be a direct interference with the liberty of the subject. But when people were married, when people died, and when children were born, the fact had to be registered, and the same sort of thing applied to the vaccination of infants. To some persons these demands might be irksome and inconvenient, but no one, he hoped, would assert the law was a bad one.... Then people objected in this way—"If I had let you know they had begun with the disease you would have sent them to the hospital." This objection was easily answered. Compulsory notice of the first case did not in any way alter the provisions of the Public Health Act. It must be proved that the person suffering was without proper lodging or accommodation, or was lodging in a room occupied by more than one family.... Another objection was that raised by medical practitioners, but in his opinion compulsory notification would not lessen a medical man's practice by adding to the coffers of quacks.

The President said it was perfectly clear that sooner or later the nation must come to compulsory notification. It was, he considered, the natural outcome of sanitary work. And why, he asked, should not the nature of the disease, which had to come out at death, come out at the beginning? Many people were impatient to get compulsory notification, but they must remember it was coming about gradually.