

portant subject, is POPULAR EDUCATION on the care of infants and young children.

At the close of the discussion Dr. Playter, Editor of this JOURNAL, proposed that in view of the importance of preserving the lives and especially of promoting the health and vigor of the coming generation that a special Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the whole question, such as infants food and the general management of young children, together with the causes of sickness and death among them. A committee was afterwards appointed.

In the evening the Association reconvened in the Academy of Music. The attendance was very large, the great structure being in fact filled, many of the most prominent physicians of the city being present. A profusion of rare plants fringed the stage, and Post's Twenty-third Regiment Band discoursed classical airs between the addresses. There were some happy speeches and the meeting closed at a late hour. On the stage were about 200 of the members of the Association. Here were given the address of welcome on behalf of the city, by the Hon Alfred C. Chapin, Mayor; the Address of Welcome, on behalf of the Medical Profession; and the President's Address. This last was lengthy but instructive and interesting. The president said: "As typhoid fever is a greater calamity than Texas fever, as Asiatic cholera is more to be dreaded than hog cholera, so do we need a Department of Public Health more than a Department of Agriculture; a bureau of vital statistics more than a bureau of animal industry."

The second day's session of the Convention was called to order shortly after 9 o'clock in the morning. The business of the meeting, reading of announcements and reports from Executive Committee, and election of new members, was hurried thorough in order to enable members to make a tour of inspection of Quarantine and East River Hospital Islands, which commenced at eleven o'clock on a special steamer.

Dr. John S. Billings, LL. D., major and surgeon United States Army, Washington D. C., then read a paper on the

U. S. CENSUS IN RELATION TO SANITATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Dr. Billings said: Theoretically we all agree that vital statistics are the foundation of public medicine, but practically, I suppose that the majority of sanitarians and physicians think that they are not essential to the work of a health officer or a Board of Health, although they may be desirable: that the main objects in sanitary work are to see that the water supply is pure, that garbage and excreta are promptly removed or destroyed, that no filth is allowed to accumulate in the vicinity of habitations, that contagious diseases are controlled by isolation and disinfection, and that plenty of fresh air be provided in schools, churches, etc., and that all this can and should be done whether death rates are known or not. Occasionally it is possible to get up a cholera or yellow fever or smallpox or typhoid fever scare, and then to get a little money for sewage or for street and alley cleaning, but these spasmodic reforms do not last long, and in most cases do not amount to much. You have got to produce constant undeniable evidence that the work is needed and is useful, evidence that will convince the press and the majority of the community, and this evidence must be mainly, death rates, to which should be added all the sickness rates that can be obtained. To give these death rates you must have a complete registration of deaths and a corresponding enumeration of the population, and you ought to have a complete registration of births. He then dwelt at length on the importance of making the next U. S. census as full and accurate as possible and asked the co-operation of all physicians and sanitarians in this behalf.

After the excursion in the harbor and visit to the quarantines, the following papers were read and discussed:—"Recent Researches Relating to the Etiology of Yellow Fever" (Illustrated with the stereopticon), by George M. Sterenberg, M. D., major and surgeon United States Army, Baltimore, Md.; "Preliminary Observations on the Micro Organism of Texas