

The U. S. law imposes a fine of \$100 upon any steamship company bringing any alien subject to any of the following disabilities: Idiots, imbeciles, epileptics, or persons afflicted with tuberculosis, or with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease, if it shall appear that any so brought were afflicted at the time of foreign embarkation and such disease or disability might have been detected by means of a competent medical examination at such time.

The Canadian Immigration Act has no such provision, but civil actions have been brought and judgments awarded against various steamship lines for bringing out and not reporting on the bill of health, physical and mental defects, as is provided for by the regulations.

Tuberculosis in the above-quoted law has been legally construed to mean tuberculosis of the respiratory, intestinal and urinary tracts, but there is now pending a law which, in addition, will include tuberculosis in any form; skin, bone, joint or visceral. It has also been suggested to add to the above law—"Aliens afflicted with chronic alcoholism and those exhibiting marked psychopathic tendencies." If these additions were made to the law many cases now certified by the examining surgeon would come within the mandatory deportable class, whereas at present many of such cases are landed, as the law does not specifically state that they shall be excluded. It is just such cases as these that become insane a short time after arrival and find their way to public hospitals and institutions for treatment or commitment.

Of the 311,084 immigrants applying for admission to Canada during the last fiscal year, 1,868 were certified as either physically or mentally defective; while in the United States, of the 1,085,712 applying for admission during the same period 27,158 were similarly certified.

The medical department of the Canadian Immigration Service is ably and efficiently administered by a corps of medical officers, whose chief, Dr. Bryce, has said: "The approximate maximum of efficient work at the seaports under existing methods of inspection and the requirement of the Act, has been reached," but Dr. Pagé, Chief Immigration Medical Officer at the port of Quebec, has recently written in his able paper, read before the Canadian Public Health Association, "There will be yet a

certain number of mentally and physically diseased persons who will slip through our hands to be detected soon after landing and deported from various points of the interior,—and the best filter to oppose the penetration of the undesirable into the country, will be found in the ship-surgeon's services as soon as it is organized on some reasonable and systematic basis,—no innovation or modification of any existing method of inspection on either side of the Atlantic will ever accomplish the equivalent of what the general ship-surgeon is in a position to do, if qualified and if he lives up to his obligations.—While it may take some time yet before we can borrow surgeons from a Canadian Navy, steamship corporations should be persuaded to pay their ship-surgeons such salaries that would be an inducement for men of recognized qualification to enter the service on an initial salary of not less than \$1,000 per annum, with a rising scale for a certain number of years."

To the casual spectator the medical inspection and examination of immigrants doubtless seems hasty and superficial, but the trained examiner with a definite formulated method of scrutiny, beginning at the aliens' feet, when he is about ten feet away and marching toward the examiner and ending by the turning of the eyelids, exposing the superior cul-de-sac and the examination of his scalp, cultivate an ability of rapidly "sizing up" and detecting physical and mental defectives, as is evidenced by the wide range of diseases and defects certified during the year. The primary inspection is principally for the segregation of suspects and the obviously diseased and defective, who are held for a second and more searching examination, or for treatment and observation, sometimes for weeks before a positive diagnosis and certificate is rendered.

While inspection is made of the immigrants at many continental border stations from a quarantine point of view, the medical inspection of immigrants from an immigration standpoint, begins at the port of embarkation, where the emigrant is examined either at the emigrant boarding houses or the landing stage (one might say as with a fine tooth comb), first, by the Board of Trade examiner and, if found free from quarantinable, infectious or contagious dis-