

Railroad corporations are compelled to pay damages to their unfortunate passengers for injuries received on their roads, and for loss of life a few thousand dollars to surviving relatives. Whenever our State Legislatures get so far enlightened as to make communities responsible for the suffering of their fellow citizens by infectious diseases and compel payment to every sufferer from the public treasury, then public hygiene will receive the attention which its importance demands. Individuals cannot alone control the spread or prevent the invasion of contagious diseases. It can only be done by the united and concerted action of communities, acting under authority. Hence communities are responsible morally for the presence and prevalence of contagious diseases, and ought to be held so pecuniarily.

No Act of the Legislature could so promptly and so surely put Connecticut in the fore front of all the States of the Union for its superior sanitary conditions as the enactment of a law like the following: Be it enacted, etc., that every legal resident in every town in Connecticut who shall, while residing in the town, have either of the following diseases, to wit, yellow fever, cholera, small-pox, typhus fever, scarlet fever or typhoid fever, shall be entitled to receive from the treasury of the town \$3 for each day he is confined to his house by such sickness, or by the order of the Board of Health of the town

for the public safety; and in case of the death of such person from such disease \$25 shall be paid from the town treasury to defray the expenses of the funeral. And every person so afflicted shall be subject to such regulations and restrictions during his sickness as the Board of Health of the town shall determine to be necessary for the safety of other persons. There is better reason for paying such victims of disease than there is for paying damages to people who slip on icy sidewalks and hurt themselves. The town treasuries would suffer for a time. But very soon town Boards of Health would become an important department of town government. The members of such boards would be more considerably appointed than at present. Sanitary engineering, in the way of sewers, aqueducts, drainage schemes, etc., would be going on all over the State to save the expense of paying for so much sickness, and the State of Connecticut would rival the railroad companies in the care and vigilance given to sanitary matters, and with corresponding good results.

The final consequence would be, and in a very few years, a great reduction of sickness, and, in confirmation of the old adage that public health is public wealth, we should enjoy a heightened degree of prosperity and greater happiness than ever before.

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## ON THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

A REPORT on the prevention of tuberculosis, consumption being the usual form of the disease, has been made to the Board of Health of New York City by the pathologists to the Health Department, Drs. H. M. Biggs, T. Mitchell Prudden and H. P. Loomis. This is in several respects, as the British Medical Journal says, a remarkable document, because in it we find, perhaps for the first time, the official advisers of a local sanitary authority basing their recommendations on strictly logical deductions from facts ascertained by experimental pathology, therein following the lead given by the French Congress on Tuberculosis. The official character of the report, that journal says, gives it a special value, and it is altogether a remarkable proof of the rapid growth of opinion on this most important subject. It is one which is already at-

tracting public attention in several quarters. The report specifically states that "tuberculosis is a distinctly preventable disease." While admitting that the disease may be, and is, transmitted by the milk and flesh of the tubercular animals, it adopts the view held by Cohnheim, that the disease is ordinarily transmitted from man to man through the intermediary of the spatium, which, when dried on floors, walls or handkerchiefs, is easily pulverized and diffused through the air.

We read in the report, as published in the New York Medical Journal:—About one-fourth of all deaths occurring in the human being during adult life are caused by it, and nearly one-half of the entire population at some time in life acquire it. The disease is the same in nature in animals and in man, and has the same cause. It has been proved beyond a doubt that