

Infectious Diseases.

All infectious diseases are dangerous not only on account of the large mortality which they cause but because of the sickness and suffering which is entailed thereby. Therefore in the attempt to restrict, cut short and prevent these diseases some system of notification and restriction should be formed. The difficulty in the way of notification in many communities is that it is left to the physician, whose duty it plainly is not. If a physician finds a case of small-pox in a house he should promptly report the disease to the board of health. If the public could only see that the golden rule is particularly applicable here, they would perhaps be more prompt at notification.

If the proper sanitary authorities are notified of a dangerous disease, they can not only protect those in the immediate neighborhood, but by keeping the children of that house from school or from playing or running about with other children, can keep the disease within reasonable bounds or, as the most skeptical will admit, they can do more than can be done without notification. As it is so often through the schools that infectious diseases are spread so it is through them that practical, preventative steps may be taken. The health officer of York, Pennsylvania, has devised the following plan for tracing contagious diseases, which he thus explains:

In the beginning of the year each

teacher is furnished with a blank sheet; it is headed with the teacher's name and grade of the school—for instance, John Jones, city, primary, No. 1. Then we have a place for each pupil's name, to be placed there in alphabetical order; opposite thereto, the pupil's age, the parent's name, and place of residence. The sheet is filled out by each teacher in the beginning of the school term. It is forwarded to the superintendent's office and is bound. This constitutes our directory. The health officer reports to the city superintendent daily all cases of contagious diseases. The directory is consulted, and all of the teachers who have schools in that section of the city are notified. First, however, the directory is examined, and the pupils from any of those families are speedily located, so the superintendent knows just what schools they attend. The teachers are informed, and it becomes then the duty of two people to see that those regulations are complied with—the superintendent and the particular teacher.

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