

now distant early days, thought then only of smallpox, cholera, typhus and yellow fever; now, with such problems solved, it naturally, and indeed is forced, to turn and deal with other problems created in the hundreds of civic centres, the outgrowth of a hundred years of immigration. Just as society has become more complex, so have its public health problems become more difficult. To England these have been present and pressing for fifty years; to the cities of this continent they are the outgrowth of twenty-five. Yet England has never had the problem of our great cities. During the past twenty years the immigration of foreigners to England has averaged probably 100,000 annually, but probably not more than half that remained. Thus an old, well-organized society of 40,000,000 has had to absorb but 50,000 annually, whereas this continent must digest over one million. Yet we learn what there happens daily, that a shipload of continental immigrants has only to arrive at a London dock, be met by their fellows, and in ten minutes they are gone and indistinguishable from the hundreds of thousands of the same foreign-speaking people already there. A foreign city is within the greater city, and it is not absorbed. Yet these people are in a sense absorbed, for they have come under police, health and social surroundings which have reduced the London death rate to 17 per 1,000. It is apparent, then, that in an old city, with its machinery gradually and adequately evolved, it is possible to handle these crude masses of humanity with comparative success. Reverting to our own problems, it is apparent that they are enormously greater than those of England. I am not familiar with the various state and civic sanitary codes in the United States, but know fairly accurately what they are in Canada. Now judging the former by the latter, I venture to say that the housing problem is as yet of all civic problems the least dealt with as, indeed, it is the one most difficult to approach. It may be quite true that public health officers have hitherto on this continent been chiefly engaged in removing cases of disease from tenements; but I venture to anticipate that this Association, and all similar ones, if true to their mission, will, within the next twenty-five years find their chief occupation in improving if not removing the tenements themselves. We have in New York, Boston, and Chicago tenement house commissioners, and their annual reports indicate the extent and nature of the task; but in Canada and in, I imagine, most United States cities, whatever is done with overcrowded and insanitary houses is done under some clause in the sanitary code.

Hitherto there have been two phases of the problem: first, What ought to be done? and the second, How are we to get it done? Everyone knows how the problem arises. The houses of a generation ago or half that in New York or Montreal, of the