

The report is interesting by reason of its descriptions of a great variety of the insect life and vegetation of the mountains. It bears the outward marks of careful and painstaking work and should be of value in the study of the mysterious disease which the scientific world is trying to elucidate.

#### **Amending New York Public Health Law.**

Assemblyman Brown has introduced a bill in the New York State Legislature amending the Public Health Law generally (secs. 4, 5, 20, 21, 23). It provides that whenever a local board of health in a town or village neglects or refuses to perform any of its duties, the state commissioner of health may exercise any of the powers of the local board of health or health officer referred to, and charges incurred by him in exercising these duties shall be a charge upon the municipality. It also gives the commissioner power to abate nuisances which are within the jurisdiction of two or more municipalities, and the local boards of health do not agree as to their respective powers and duties regarding it. In such a case the state commissioner of health is to determine the proportionate amount of expense which each municipality shall pay. It provides that in towns the board of health shall consist of the town board, instead of the town board and another citizen appointed by it. It is provided that the fees of the local health officer (fixed by the local board of health) may be the same as the fees allowed by the county medical society for like services. Each local board of health may, when necessary, employ experts in sanitary matters and assistants to the health officer, on the nomination of the latter, and may fix the compensation of these appointees. No action may be brought against a health officer for alleged damages resulting from any act done, or failure to perform any act, while discharging his official duties, unless a justice of the Supreme Court gives permission for such an action to be brought. If the health officer is successful in the action, he shall be entitled to receive from the municipality all his expenses and disbursements in making his defence. Certain other changes are made relating to the jurisdictions of corpses.

#### **Pennsylvania Department of Public Health.**

The Pennsylvania State Department of Health has issued a series of pamphlets in German, Slavish, Polish, and Italian, dealing with scarlet fever, diphtheria and typhoid fever and tuberculosis.

These circulars set forth clearly and concisely the precautions which should be observed in the care of these various diseases to prevent the infection of others and insure the most favorable conditions for the patient. They also contain the quarantine regulations.

Dr. Dixon, health commissioner, has ordered that the seven hundred health officers of the Department of Health, distribute these when placarding the house in which these diseases exist. In the mining and manufacturing districts, where there is a large foreign-born population, it is believed that these pamphlets will be of great aid in educating the people and supplementing the work of the physicians and health authorities.

It has been found by the department's tuberculosis dispensary physicians that one of the greatest difficulties encountered in their work is the ignorance of the foreign born population as to the danger of improper housing conditions. Hundreds of instances have been discovered where the victims of tuberculosis occupied the same room and often the same beds with other members of their family.

In these cases it is difficult to bring the sufferers and their families to a full realization of the danger of infection from this source.

To aid in bettering this condition the booklet on tuberculosis sets forth clearly the precautionary measures which should be followed. Out-of-door sleeping is advised and illustrations are given of inexpensive sleeping porches such as might be constructed on the most modest home.

Some of the teachings from the tuberculosis pamphlet which every one should be familiar are as follows:

First, tuberculosis is a communicable disease.

The germs of the disease are conveyed in the spit of the patient.

Remembering that the danger lies in the sputum them should never spit except in a receptacle which can be burned or disinfected