

logical laboratory. This was, I believe, the first bacteriological laboratory ever established under municipal control. It was designed originally to afford facilities for the bacteriological diagnosis of Asiatic Cholera, and for the investigation of questions relating to disinfection and disinfectants. A few months after the opening of the laboratory the scope of its work was broadened and facilities for the bacteriological diagnosis of diphtheria were offered to the physicians of New York City free of charge. The necessity for making repeated examinations during the course of this disease soon became evident, and such changes were made by the Health authorities in the methods of dealing with diphtheria as were suggested by the earlier experimental observations. These investigations of the New York City Health Department relating to diphtheria laid the foundations of municipal bacteriological laboratories, and made them necessary to the proper conduct of sanitary work.

The work on diphtheria was soon followed by the perfecting of arrangements for the free bacteriological examination of sputum for the diagnosis of cases of suspected tuberculosis occurring among residents of New York City.

In October, 1894, investigations in connection with the production of diphtheria antitoxin were begun, and in December of that year the municipal authorities made a special annual appropriation (antitoxin fund) of \$30,500 for the prosecution of this work. The Health Department commenced the use of the antitoxin produced in its own laboratories on January 1st, 1895. The plan, as now developed, includes:

1st. The furnishing of free supplies of diphtheria antitoxin to all public institutions in New York City.

2nd. The furnishing of free supplies of diphtheria antitoxin to private physicians for use among persons too poor to pay for the remedy; the only condition being that reports of the cases treated be forwarded to the Health Department on their completion.

3rd. The free administration of diphtheria antitoxin on the request of the attending physician to any resident of New York City by a specially detailed staff of medical inspectors.

The sale of the surplus product of diphtheria antitoxin was authorized by a special Act of the New York State Legislature in 1895, and the funds thus derived, according to the provisions of this Act, are devoted solely to "the production and use of diphtheria antitoxin or other antitoxins." The remedy is on sale in