

## IMMIGRATION IN RELATION TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH.\*

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*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Association.*—When we consider that 1,000,000 immigrants were added during the last year to the 70,000,000 people of the United States, and that 150,000 were added to the 6,000,000 in Canada, or one person of foreign birth, education and ideas in every 70 in the one instance and one in every 40 in the other, it is apparent, when, as in the United States, 10,000,000 foreigners have been added to the population within twenty years and the rate of present increase in Canada is proportionately twice as great, that the words of Tennyson, in "Vastness," impel our attention:

"Spring and Summer and Autumn and Winter,  
And all these old revolutions of Earth:  
All new-old revolutions of Empire—change  
Of the tide—what is all of it worth?"

If we are not prepared, as we are not, to answer this *cui bono* with another verse of the same poetic cry of whither drifting,

"Raving Politics never at rest as this poor Earth's pale history runs—  
What is it all but a trouble of ants in the gleam of a million million of  
suns?"

then it is plain that no good citizen of this continent can avoid the study of this the most serious of the political, social, economic and health problems of to-day. How shall we approach it? Shall we at once say, especially in the United States: "Raise an absolute Chinese wall and exclude all foreigners until the people have had time to digest this, to some, hydra-headed monster, like the serpent, which slimy glided up from the dark depths of ocean and crushed on Trojan shores Laocoon and his glorious sons"? Shall we, finding past efforts useless in stemming the tide of immigration which brought over a million alien people to American shores last year, give up the fight and open our gates wide, if not welcoming, at least permitting the good, indifferent and bad to enter and submit to the conditions which their intrusion has produced and must continue to create? Or shall we adopt the third possible position of recognizing the situation as we find it

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