

tary regulations would be very advantageous to all concerned in the compact. Hitherto the chief reliance for preventing the spread into other countries of any infectious disease, has been the time-honored protection of quarantines. But for some time there has been a growing conviction that too little attention is paid to the condition of vessels, their passengers, crew and cargo, at the port of departure, and that vessels have been allowed to go to sea in a condition greatly favoring the development of infectious disease, and increasing the difficulties and delays of quarantine restrictions at the port of destination. This brings us to the

Third division of the subject of international hygiene, namely, as the regulations relate to foreign countries, on the territory of each party to the compact.

It has been properly urged that there should be a system of inspection of ships and their contents at ports of departure, through the agency of foreign inspectors. Doubtless such a system of inspection, whether made by medical officers of local health boards, or by medical officers employed by consuls of foreign countries, would be of great value, and would greatly lessen the difficulties of quarantines; but not to the extent of dispensing with them. There are many ports and places of departure of vessels which have neither a consular officer of a foreign power, nor local board of health to which such inspection could be entrusted; while at large sea-ports like Liverpool and New York, it would be a matter of great difficulty to make a thorough inspection of all out-going vessels. The chief reliance, therefore, must be placed upon quarantines. It has been said that "quarantine may be likened to a net which catches all vessels entering a port; whereas foreign inspec-

tion, if relied on, might prove a delusion and a snare." It should certainly be required that all out-going vessels be properly cleansed, and suspected ones thoroughly fumigated and disinfected before being loaded.

It has been further proposed to establish in each country an international system of *mutual notification*, as to the actual sanitary condition of the country and the prevalence of infectious diseases. This was a leading subject of discussion at the Washington convention.

At this convention, Dr. Taché submitted two fundamental propositions concerning the measures above alluded to, which were adopted; they are as follows:—

*Resolved*, That this committee recommends to the International Sanitary Conference that it be admitted as an international principle of sanitation that it is highly desirable to adopt an internal system of notification concerning sanitary matters and the appearance and disappearance of contagious or infectious diseases.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee that it would be highly advantageous to permit certain sanitary inspections to be made by foreign agents in ports of various nations, subject to such rules as are necessary for the safeguard of each country's sovereignty and of each country's commercial interests, and that the said opinion be expressed in the report of this committee to the Conference.

It is to be hoped the time is not far distant when a general system of international sanitary regulations may be agreed to and carried out by all civilized nations. The conveying of infection from one country to another by railways as well as by means of ships, demands consideration. This is a point which we purpose taking up at another time.