

transmitted by articles of food or articles handled which have come from infected places or been handled by infected persons. The remedy we ask is prevention as outlined. I admit that under present circumstances, modes of life, etc., to remove every source of contagion would be almost impossible. Still most of the danger is preventable without causing inconvenience or hardships. Every precaution taken along the lines of prevention and sanitation lessens the danger of contagion. And if citizens are provided with proper food, adequate clothing, improved sanitary surroundings, etc., they may be kept in such a healthy condition as to largely resist infection.

The insanitary condition under which so many of our people live was pretty strongly pointed out at our meeting a year ago. Further observations not only confirm the statements then made, but show that insanitary conditions are worse than then stated. About our farm premises and village dwellings, drainage or sewerage is the exception, rarely to be found. Slops and waste water of all kinds are thrown upon the ground—often just at the door; a stagnant pool in the vicinity is not uncommon; the well, if there is one, is probably quite near enough to get a fair proportion of this foul waste water. In the farm yard, which generally means the barn yard, the well is frequently found which supplies both house and stable, and this barn yard in wet weather is little better than a cesspool. In our cities, large and small, so far as my experience goes, sanitation seems defective. Passing along some of the streets of our capital during the Jubilee week, symptoms of bad sanitation were evident.

Our rivers, large and small, are the main sewers of the country through which they run, carrying away a large portion of the sewage, garbage, and other filth. These streams often supply our towns with water, which water must, not unfrequently, be impregnated with pathogenic bacteria, which with existing methods of filtration are not removed.

The means by which contagious diseases are propagated and spread are numerous, but among the most prolific foci from which contagious diseases are disseminated are our public schools. Children often attend school from infected houses. Children often go to school a little indisposed, but not really sick, who are probably in the first stages of some disease. A child may go to school in the morning seemingly well and by noon be found to be sick with diphtheria. A child slightly indisposed but not sick enough to be kept at home, may infect all those in the school susceptible, with scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough.