

polluted water has been removed to a certain extent, with a great consequent advantage to the health of the communities. All of these waterworks systems are subject to the inspection of the department.

The death-rate from diphtheria in Ontario, with a population of 2,263,422, is also decreasing, the rates being as follows: In 1894, 1,075, or .5 per 1,000; in 1895, 942, or .4 per 1,000; in 1896, 925, or .39 per 1,000; almost as low as the .32 rate of England, and lower than the .71 rate of Massachusetts for the same year. This decrease is all the more noteworthy in view of the fact that owing to the more frequent resort to a bacteriological test in making a diagnosis, cases of diphtheria were reported in 1896; which, had they occurred in previous years, would have been classed as non-contagious, follicular tonsillitis or croup.

While attention to isolation in dwellings and a resort to hospitals for contagious diseases have tended powerfully to limit the spread of diphtheria, it must be admitted that the liberal use of anti-diphtheritic serum during the last three years in Ontario has enabled practitioners to obtain results never before procurable either in a prophylactic or therapeutic sense. As a further indication of the extraordinary influence of anti-diphtheritic serum in reducing the death-rate from the disease in question, we may refer to the Massachusetts report on vital statistics for 1896. It is stated therein that in the cities and towns of that State, for the years 1892, 1893, 1894, when antitoxin was not used, the total mortality (average) from diphtheria, compared with reported cases, was 28.3 per cent., but in 1895, when antitoxin began to be used, the percentage of mortality fell to 18.9 per cent., and in 1896 to 15.1 per cent.

The report showing deaths from tuberculosis in Ontario is not favorable, the mortality from that disease in 1896 being 2,758 persons or 11 per cent. of all the deaths from all causes. In the thirteen cities it shows a percentage of 13.3 per cent. of all causes. While Ontario compares most favorably with all other States and countries in temperate climates, nevertheless this mortality seems lamentable. In a further table, in which the counties of the Province are divided into groups, the most important and interesting fact is illustrated that in certain counties year after year a high absolute mortality from this disease prevails. The new districts, Algoma and Muskoka, show a most satisfactory immunity. The Lake Huron and central counties come next in their relative