

abundant evidence to prove that the practical absence of any active health authority has allowed outbreaks to obtain a headway, with an ultimate loss of life and expenditure of a most serious amount. As an illustration, I may refer to one of the applications before you for relief, from a township stated to have 140 ratepayers, with an assessment of \$23,771.50, a rate of 57½ mills, and a bill of \$320 for contagious diseases, and a total indebtedness of \$1,409.80. Had a county officer existed in this instance, specially devoted to this work, and paid for his services by the county, the epidemic could hardly have got under such headway, or, had it done so, the expenditure would have been spread over many municipalities, instead of one.

2. The work of supervising cheese factories and dairies, the pig-pens in connection with them, and the sanitary oversight of Public Schools, both in the matter of good water, outbuildings, heating and ventilation, are all most necessary duties laid upon Local Boards at present. Remembering the growing importance of this work, it will be seen that the work necessary to be done is of a most extended and important character.

3. The investigation of outbreaks of hog-cholera, of actinomycosis and tuberculosis in herds, and in milch cows both for dairy and public milk supplies, is another growing and most important part of Local Board work. The complaints constantly received from medical officers and sanitary inspectors with regard to these subjects show how greatly is needed the constant supervision of a trained medical officer.

4. The yearly introduction of public water supplies in our growing towns and villages, and the need of accurate investigation of sources of disease from badly-constructed sewers and drains, is similarly demanding the presence of an officer who shall make local conditions a special study and take steps to prevent the pollution of public water supplies.

5. Another and very pressing need is the presence of some medical expert in every county to whom can conveniently and quickly be sent by local medical practitioners samples of membrane from cases of suspected diphtheria, and sputa from cases of supposed tuberculosis.

The work undertaken in the laboratory of the Board during the past year amply illustrates the good which may be done in this direction by supplying accurate information at the earliest moment, and thereby enabling medical men to take prompt steps toward arresting the outbreak at the outset.

6. The development of the science of bacteriology has not only enabled us to diagnose these diseases with an accuracy hitherto impossible, but it has also given to us at least three well-known antitoxines as diagnostic or preventive agents in disease, viz., vaccine against small-pox, antitoxine in diphtheria, and tuberculin in tuberculosis. The presence of a trained bacteriologist as a county medical officer would enable him to systematically vaccinate the children of the county schools, to keep on hand diphtheria antitoxine, which could be had at the shortest notice from any point in the county, and to diagnose any suspected tuberculous animals