

adopted by the committee in the practical work in the investigation. This sub-committee immediately found that it would be impossible to proceed any further until something authoritative could be laid down as to what might be termed, standard bacteriological technique. So great is the need for a clear and authoritative pronouncement upon bacteriological methods, that when it was suggested that a meeting be called to discuss this subject, the suggestion met with a most hearty response, and in June, 1895, most of the prominent bacteriologists of North America came together at the Academy of Medicine in New York, and for two days a most fruitful discussion was carried on under the chairmanship of Professor Welch, upon such subjects as the reaction of media, the composition of media, the synthesis of media, and the methods of determining pathogenesis, morphological characters, and so on; in fact upon many of the basal problems which confront the practical bacteriologist.

The proceedings of that convention form a mass of some 170 pages of small print, in the *Journal of American Public Health Association* for October, 1895, and as a result of that meeting, a committee was appointed consisting of Drs. Abbott, Cheesman, Smart, Theobald Smith and Welch, Prof. W. T. Sedgwick and Mr. Geo. W. Fuller with Dr. Adami as chairman. To this committee power was given to draw up a report upon bacteriological technique and procedure, in conformity with the recommendations accepted by the convention.

The present report is a result of that resolution. Simple as might seem the work of placing this matter of bacteriological technique in an orderly and useful form, the difficulties before this committee were very great, and the amount of time and trouble determining what is best and most to be recommended, and of reaching conclusions upon minute details which should gain general acceptance, has been extraordinary, for practically the committee was breaking new ground. Previously each man had been a law unto himself, and according to his training and the traditions of his laboratory, so did his technique vary from that of other workers. The first framework of the report was drawn up by Dr. Adami and submitted at a meeting of the members of the committee, then circulated in manuscript and the criticisms, generally upon minute details, which, however, are of importance in a science which strives to be exact, were discussed at a meeting of the committee in New York. The final drafting of the report was given to Dr. T. M. Cheesman of Columbia College. He again, in the determination of minute points has given a year's work to the subject.

Naturally bacteriology being an advancing subject, and new methods being constantly devised, not a few of the recommendations