

be a competent bacteriologist to control the clinical diagnosis of doubtful cases, and to trace bacteriologically the channel by which a given disease has spread from one individual to another.

Taking first the subject of compulsory notification, your Special Committee has learned, with regret, that not a few practitioners in this city have evaded their duties in this respect, and, instead of helping, have thwarted, however unintentionally, the efforts of the Medical Health Officer. At the same time your committee would call attention to the fact that, with his office undermanned, it is impossible for the Medical Officer to perform his duties satisfactorily. A staff of assistants is urgently required, whose duties it would be to gain particulars connected with each case notified—duties which one individual, however willing, clearly cannot perform—duties which unperformed render notification of little avail.

Nevertheless, had each case at the commencement of the recent outbreak of typhoid in our midst been properly notified, the necessity for action in connection therewith would long ago have been discovered.

In the second place, the fact that bacteriology is a very special new branch of medical education, requiring not only special training but also special laboratory appliances, renders it impossible for the ordinary practitioner satisfactorily to undertake the bacteriological diagnosis of disease. It is therefore necessary that there should be attached to the Health Office a bacteriological laboratory in the charge of a well-trained observer.

Your special committee has taken into consideration the question as to whether the bacteriologist and his laboratory should preferably be in connection with the Provincial Board of Health, or with the City Health Office. They hold that while, in view of the very possible invasion of this Dominion by cholera this forthcoming summer, it is undoubtedly of the highest importance that the Province be provided with a competent bacteriological adviser, whose duty it would be to determine the nature of every doubtful case of choleraic diarrhoea, and to advise with regard to effectual disinfection of immigrants and their belongings; nevertheless, since their present mission is to report upon matters concerning