

discretionary power in the hands of the medical officer of health, whose duties in matters of detail were well defined and comprehensive. In future every steamship or sailing vessel arriving with infectious diseases shall be liable to be detained at the quarantine station for disinfection, together with its cargo and passengers and crew, but every vessel provided with one isolated hospital for men and another for women, on the upper deck, ventilated from above and not by the door only, may, in the discretion of the quarantine medical officers, if satisfactory evidence be furnished, proceed on its voyage. Dr. Covernton said the Quebec officers were sensible of the support they received in their efforts to get the Legislature to pass these new epidemic laws, from the Ontario Board of Health, and now they had the satisfaction of knowing that the danger of epidemic entering the country by that port was reduced to a minimum.

The report was adopted.

ANTHRAX AT GUELPH.

Dr. Bryce submitted a special report regarding an outbreak of an epidemic at Guelph, by which a number of cattle were destroyed and several persons were affected. The disease first appeared last summer and broke out again amongst cattle pasturing on the river flats, which in many parts are flooded in the spring time. The disease was supposed to be anthrax, the germs of which might be carried into the river by the water used for cleaning imported wool in a factory situated on the river. The report recommended a thorough investigation and a biological examination of the disease to be made in order to obtain positive information on the subject.

The report was adopted, and the Committee on Epidemics was instructed to have a sample of blood from an animal which had died from the disease examined by a competent biologist. The Board then adjourned until 2.30.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the afternoon session of the Board a resolution was adopted, and forwarded by telegraph, congratulating the sanitarians of Quebec upon having secured the organization of a Board of Health in that Province with executive powers.

The plans for the water supply system at Berlin were fully discussed and adopted, the Board not holding itself responsible for their practicability, but simply accepting the position of referee in case the Local Board of Health should find the water is impure.

On motion, the Committee on Epidemics was instructed to interview the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the whole question of enforcing under the Act of 1887.

The Chairman and Secretary were appointed delegates to represent the Board at the International Conference of State Boards to meet at Washington September 7th and 8th.

This concluded the business of the quarterly meeting.

The new appointments to the Board made a slight re-arrangement of Committees necessary. Dr. C. W. Covernton was continued on the Committee on Epidemics, Dr. Macdonald, Hamilton, Dr. Mackay, Woodstock, and the Secretary were appointed a Committee on Sewage and Water Supply.

The Board finally adjourned at 6 p.m.

P. H. BRYCE, *Secretary.*

Correspondence.

To the Editors of the CANADIAN PRACTITIONER.

SIRS,—In your last issue some one, signing himself "Justitia," makes a statement, by way of re-opening the Permangano-Phenyline controversy of some eighteen months ago, to which I desire to make a very brief reply. Your correspondent does not wish "to stir up old strife." If he had just added that his only motive was another sneaking thrust at myself, he would, doubtless, have said all that was in his mind.

I shall not reply to this anonymous communication further than to say that I know from conversation with the gentleman who first devised the mixture referred to, what is its exact composition. Unless your correspondent is prepared to make his statement over his proper signature, I have no hesitation in saying it is utterly unworthy of credence.

Yours, etc.,

GEORGE WRIGHT.

Toronto, Aug. 27, 1887.