

kept out, and neither political influence nor official neglect should allow the entry into this country of a class of emigrants afflicted with the disease.

Although a more or less rigid examination of the eyes for the detection of trachoma is made of emigrants who occupy the so-called steerage accommodations on the various lines of steamships, what about those who are fortunate enough to occupy first or second-class accommodations? No examinations are made of these individuals, nor precautions taken to exclude them.

That trachoma in some form or other exists and is met with amongst the children attending the public schools in our large cities makes it necessary that inspection and stringent regulations should be required in order to secure its eradication. Such hygienic regulations should be enforced as to prevent risk of further spread of the disease, and such laws should be enacted making it compulsory to report to the proper authorities all cases of trachoma, that they may be surrounded with such restrictions that further spread of the disease is impossible.

Steps have been taken toward suppressing one cause of blindness, namely, ophthalmia neonatorum, which for years resulted in more blindness, with the exception of optic nerve atrophy, than any other local affection. The micrococcus of gonorrhoea is responsible for approximately two-thirds of all the cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, the micro-organisms being readily found in the discharges resulting from the infection, especially in the more severe and complicated forms. Various micro-organisms, such as pneumococcus, Koch-Weeks bacillus, Morax Axenfeld diplobacillus, streptococcus, etc., are responsible for the other third. These cases represent the milder and less dangerous to sight types of the inflammation. The necessity of an early and exact diagnosis is important. This necessitates a bacterioscopic examination of the secretion from the inflamed conjunctiva. Unless the conjunctival inflammation be due to the gonococci the cornea is rarely affected. Although it is true that almost all severe cases of ophthalmia neonatorum are due to the gonococcus, it does not necessarily follow that every case in which gonococci are found will be a severe form of the disease. Even in the mildest forms complications may develop at almost any moment. On the contrary, what sometimes appears from all clinical appearances to be gonorrhoeal ophthalmia sometimes turns out, on bacteriological examination, to be due to some other micro-organism. The type of inflammation is milder, and generally responds quickly and readily to treatment. Complications are seldom present, and the cornea is rarely affected. The baby's eyes may become infected—

1. Before the act of birth, while in the uterus.
2. During the act of birth.