

2. That the label should be made to constitute a warranty, and that false description, whether on the label or main advertisement, should be made an offence.

3. That the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts should be applied to proprietary medicines. It was further recommended that a copy of the resolution should be sent to the Prime Minister, the Secretary for Scotland, the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Local Government Board for Scotland.

It was pointed out that a gigantic trade was done in secret remedies, commonly known as quack medicines, which the Act did not touch; that the stamp duty on packets of medicine in 1889 was £266,000, and in 1908 £334,000, and the cost to the public over three and a quarter millions. The most exorbitant prices were charged. The British Medical Association had had exhaustive analyses made of these medicines, as the result of which it was revealed what was charged to the public at 1s. 1½d. cost the thirtieth part of a farthing. Not only were the public being swindled, but many of the component parts of these medicines were deleterious, and often diseases which could easily have been tackled by medical science in their earlier stages became chronic and incurable owing to the use of quack remedies. Great Britain was very far behind other countries. There was complete prohibition in some countries on the Continent of Europe, and restriction in others; and outlying countries of the British Empire were following that example. Farmers were prosecuted for having a little additional water in their milk, yet under the present legislation the swindling patent medicine vendor, who was living in luxurious style upon his ill-gotten thousands, was allowed to go free. A county council had to prosecute the grocer who had a little margarine in his butter, but could not touch the medicine vendor who used margarine as a component of the most deleterious compounds sometimes. It was high time the Legislature were taking action in the matter, but it was evident the Central Government would not do so without considerable pressure.

Dried Fish in London, England, as a Cause of Typhoid Fever.

In submitting to the Public Health Com-

mittee of the London County Council a report by Dr. W. H. Hamer on certain localized prevalences of typhoid fever in London in 1910, Dr. Murphy, the council's medical officer, states that during the past 25 years typhoid fever has markedly declined in prevalence in London. A study of the cases in recent years shows that they display a marked tendency to occur in groups, and that, for the most part, localities occupied by the very poor are especially affected. Moreover, the same localities have been in some instances repeatedly attacked year after year. Thus the prevalence of 1910 affected an area in Bethnal-green almost identical in extent with that involved two years before.

In 1900, in 1903, and again in 1908 the consumption of infected fish was suspected as the cause of the prevalence, and the Bethnal-green outbreak was sufficient to enable the question of shellfish, which had complicated the problem in 1908, to be eliminated. An examination of the sources of supply of dried fish to the 49 sufferers from typhoid fever in the affected locality showed that they had, in all probability, obtained their fish from one or other of three shops, two of which had a common source of fish supply. Coincidentally with the outbreak in the specially affected area in Bethnal-green, a number of other localized prevalences of typhoid fever developed in other parts of London generally. It was found that all sufferers contributing to the excessive prevalences had partaken of fish (usually dried fish), and that in all the instances in which information on this head could be obtained small plaice belonging to the category described by dried fish vendors as "late steamer fish", was in question.

Dr. Hamer in his report points out that the kind of fish implicated was plaice (including in this term flounders and dabs); that small plaice were specially open to suspicion; that the question of imperfect cleansing of the fish was important in connection with the communication of infection; and that the fish were already infected before reaching the retail vendor. He draws attention to the fact, established by the inquiries and reports of officers of the Board of Trade, that much of the small plaice sold at Billingsgate comes from an area in which are situated certain "nurs-