

heated chamber there. The difficulty is they cannot, at Philadelphia or at New York, and we cannot at Grosse Isle yet, bring the ship alongside of a wharf where it could be cleaned. In order to clean the ship at Grosse Isle, Philadelphia, etc., they have adopted a plan of placing on a barge, or some sufficient vessel, large chambers in which sulphur dioxide can be rapidly distributed by means of fans. A large quantity of sulphur dioxide is sent through the ship. If that is done thoroughly and the ship stands under sulphur fumes for twenty-four hours, they have found in New Orleans, at all events, that it does disinfect the ship, not only in cases of smallpox, but also of yellow fever. That is, I think, an answer to the question.

Dr. Playter: I think we should consider hereafter, as medical practitioners, another aspect of the question. We know that there are yet other factors in the causation of all diseases of an infectious nature, and Sir Andrew Clarke has recently brought the question to a fine point in regard to tuberculosis. He said there were necessarily two factors in the causation of tubercles: one the bacillus, and the other the soil on which it grows. It is most desirable that everything should be done through quarantine to prevent the infection reaching this continent; but I think attention should be directed to the other essential more than it has been. Not that we should neglect the first, but the infection will escape the best quarantine and the best disinfection. There will be less danger in the future, but we should prepare for a certain amount of outbreaks at the best on this continent next summer. Our present facilities for instructing the people are I think, insufficient, and a good deal might be done by way of enlightening the people in the way of the soil. We all admit that if the digestive canal is in a good condition there will be no infection, and the general functions of the body should be kept in a vigorous condition. It seems to me very clear that unless there is a want of acidity or, rather, alkaline conditions of the intestinal canal, the cholera bacillus will not develop there. I think there should always be a thoroughly clean condition of the digestive organs.

Dr. F. W. Campbell: I do not think that, with all the good will that the Hon. Mr. Carling has, he will undertake to keep the digestive organs of the people of Canada in good order. That is a matter which comes under the cognizance of the provincial authorities. I should like to ask for information from those who are health officers, if it is not a fact that the statistics give the following: That 70 per cent. of epidemics escape quarantine, and that 30 per cent. only are successful, even under the best system of quarantine?

(To be continued.)

THE AMERICAN GYNÆCOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

Comprising a membership of about ninety specialists, held its seventeenth annual meeting, September 21, 22 and 23, in the city of Brooklyn. This city is favored by the residence of many prominent members. Women doctors were well represented, and one Chinese, Dr. Thomas, was present. Over twenty technical papers were read, some of which brought animated discussion. Dr. Charles Jewett, of Brooklyn, gave the address of welcome. The President, Dr. John Byrne, delivered the annual address, nearly two hours in length, reviewing the work of the Society and the progress of gynæcology at home and abroad, and as a whole was a plea for conservatism in abdominal surgery. Considerable emphasis was given to this part of the paper by the fact that Brooklyn gained considerable notoriety, more than a year ago, through the operations of Dr. Mary Dixon Jones and her son, which caused much comment by the press at the time. Many of Dr. Byrne's points were received with applause. The social part was a pleasant feature. Dr. A. J. Skene first invited a large number of the profession to meet the Society at a reception in the St. George Hotel, and about three hundred accepted the invitation. The next day the Society enjoyed a luncheon given them by the Medical Society of Kings County, Dr. T. L. Emery, president, and on the third day a luncheon was given them at the Union League Club, by Dr. Chas. Jewett.

THE AMERICAN ELECTROTHERAPEUTIC ASSOCIATION

Held its second annual meeting in the New York Academy of Medicine, October 4, 5 and 6. Dr. William J. Morton, president, delivered the annual address. Many important papers were read and discussed by such experts as Dr. A. P. Rockwell; Dr. Horatio Bigelow, secretary of the Association; Dr. G. Apostoli; Dr. Augustin H. Goelet, of New York; Dr. G. B. Massey, of Philadelphia; Dr. Margaret A. Cleaves, of New York, and others. The Association is composed of members of the medical profession who are specially interested in the study of electricity as applied to disease. It is not many years since work in this line was looked upon as disreputable, while to-day, all the medical colleges deal with it more or less, and seldom is there an issue of a medical journal without something in reference to it. The use of electricity is now common among physicians, some of whom will advise a patient to get a battery and use it. Would any one recommend a patient to get a lancet and use that? For this reason it is a hopeful sign that those who are most interested in the scientific use of