

8,334 in 1896. So far as was possible all of these cases, except those in private houses, were visited, or the premises where they lived were inspected, and, in addition, the premises occupied by persons dying from tuberculosis (numbering each year nearly 6000) were inspected, and such action taken as was considered possible and desirable. Altogether the premises and cases thus coming under observation during these three years numbered 35,000.

"These facts convey some idea of the enormous sanitary importance of the subject. It is conservatively estimated that there are at least 25,000 cases of well developed and recognized pulmonary tuberculosis now in New York City, and an additional large number of obscure and incipient forms of the disease. A very large proportion of the former cases constitute more or less dangerous centres for infection, the degree of danger depending in each instance upon the intelligence and care which is exercised in the destruction of the expectoration. All the suffering and death consequent upon the prevalence of this disease, in view of modern scientific knowledge, is largely preventable by the careful observation of simple, well understood and easily applied measures of cleanliness, disinfection and isolation.

"In the beginning of 1897, the Health Board further adopted some recommendations made by Dr. T. Mitchell Pruden, Consulting Pathologist to the Health Department, and the writer, which advised that pulmonary tuberculosis be declared to be an "infectious and communicable disease, dangerous to the public health," and which required "the notification of all cases occurring in the city." In the same way as is required in regard to small-pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria and other similar diseases. Tuberculosis, however, in accordance with the special section of the Sanitary Code, enacted to provide for these measures, is distinctly separated from these other diseases—is not classed with them as a contagious disease, but is referred to as "an infectious and communicable disease." It has always appeared to the Health Board ex-

ceedingly desirable that a broad distinction should exist in the public mind between this disease and those diseases which are more properly classed as contagious.

"In the treatment of apartments, which have been occupied by tubercular patients and vacated by death or removal, renovation has been and is ordered, rather than disinfection attempted, because the Health Board has always felt that disinfection for tuberculosis in the poorest tenement houses could not be satisfactorily performed, and has considered renovation as certainly efficient. In the thousands of orders which have been issued under the resolution referred to upon the owners of real property during the last four years, requiring the renovation of premises, little or no difficulty has been experienced in enforcing compliance, and rarely has there been serious objection.

Public institutions, hospitals, asylums, homes, etc., are now not only required to report the name, last address, sex, age, and occupation of every case of tuberculosis coming under observation within one week of such time, but they are further required to notify the department of the discharge or transfer of such patients. The purpose of this procedure is to keep under more or less constant supervision those cases of pulmonary tuberculosis which occur among the poorest classes of the population; in other words, those which are most likely to be dangerous sources of infection to others. Unfortunately, at the present time, there are no hospitals directly under the control of the Health department, for the isolation of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, but it is hoped that such hospitals may be soon provided.

"The best medical opinion forbids that persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis be treated in association with other classes of cases in the general medical wards of general hospitals. This opinion is based on the daily observations of danger incident thereto, and it has very properly resulted in the exclusion, to a large extent, of persons suffering from this disease from any of the general