

tim. Since the slightest cold may make progress to the throat and lungs, end in pneumonia, the importance of proper understanding of this subject is apparent.

A summary of the report shows that the average loss of time for the persons investigated was about two weeks a year, with a loss in money, not including individual expenditure for medical treatment, of \$44.34 each per annum. The most common cold is the head cold, and March is the most dangerous month.

The remedy lies in ventilation, whether in office, public building, sitting-room or bedroom. Night air in the city is much purer than day air; there is less smoke belching from city smokestacks, much less dust from street traffic, so that windows should be opened from top and bottom in every sleeping room. Both prevention and cure may be obtained by nourishment and general hygiene and proper clothing, particular importance being placed on the isolation of persons suffering from infectious colds from the rest of the family, or those working with them.

Status of South African Sanitary Inspectors.

Dr. Anderson, President of the South African Centre of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, speaking at the annual meeting at Cape Town recently, said the status of the sanitary inspector in South Africa was at present by no means what it should be, and, in consequence, he was not able to perform the good service which he otherwise would be able to do. He noticed, however, signs of increase in the estimation in which he was held by the public, and this by ordinary processes of evolution was bound to be brought about. One of the objects of the Association was to increase the rate of that development. Fortunately, during the past nine years it had become more and more the practice to appoint as inspectors men who have gone to the trouble and expense of passing through some course of training for the duties, and have afterwards submitted themselves to examination by a Board of Experts appointed by recognized institutions, and have been awarded a certificate. This had been hastened by the possibility of obtaining in South Africa a certificate from such a well-known body as the Royal Sanitary Institute of Great Britain. After

giving an instance of an inspector who was dismissed because of the zealous carrying out of his duties, the speaker said unless such officials, who had to discover offences against regulations, were adequately protected, there was likely to be inefficient and unequal administration. Anyway, an instance such as he had quoted would not *serve pour encourager les autres* to be active in sanitary reform.

Nine Thousand Cases of Smallpox.

Public Health Notes tabulates the cases of smallpox in the United States for the six months ending December 30, as 9,262 cases, with 203 deaths, a record that is not particularly creditable when one realizes that in July last there was not one case in all Japan. In the United States there were seventeen of the States that had more than one hundred cases each, North Carolina in the lead with 1,665, and seven reported deaths. To the credit of the authorities it should be said that they are alive to the situation and are doing their best to persuade the people to be vaccinated. This is a difficult matter with the kind of people who constitute so large a proportion of the citizens. Three other States run to 1,000 cases or more each, Oklahoma with 1,187, Kansas with 1,049, and Michigan with 1,000. Texas comes next with 881 cases, and 28 deaths. Here the State authorities have made such excellent regulations concerning the public health, defining "public buildings" in a very broad way, and making proper rules for their care as well as establishing good standards for cattle, that one is surprised to see so high a rating in what is so truly a preventable disease. In a group are the Middle-Western States, an evidence that conditions there are much alike in all, Ohio 245, Indiana 242, Illinois 276, Minnesota 224, Iowa 187, and Wisconsin 142. Somewhat higher are the States farther west, Colorado 306, Utah 312, Washington 199, and Montana rather low at 123. The Southern States range much the same, excepting Alabama, which records only 52, but the figures from Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Kentucky are defective. These States show how little the importance of reporting infectious disease is understood in some places, whereas it is one of the most important factors to the good health of the commun-