

The Board of Health of New York City has jurisdiction over the whole of New York City, as it now exists, with its about 2,000,000 of population, and with the beginning of 1898 a similar Board, increased to five members, will have complete jurisdiction over greater New York, with a population of about 3,250,000. All of the administrative and executive work of the Department is concentrated at the main offices, and is carried on under the immediate direction of the chiefs of the various divisions into which the Department is divided. By the Act of the Legislature of New York State creating the Department, most ample powers, executive, judicial and legislative in character, are given to the Board. The funds for the support of the Department are supplied from the general funds of New York City.

Previous to a discussion of the treatment of infectious diseases in New York, I desire to call especial attention to the fact, that all matters connected with the scientific investigation, diagnosis, care or sanitary supervision, in every way, of the infectious diseases are regarded by the Board of Health of New York City as properly coming within its province. In the development of the methods, as they now exist, the proposition expressed has furnished the governing principle. I need hardly point out the great difference between this conception of the functions of a Sanitary Board and that usually held.

The duties of sanitary authorities relating to the infectious diseases are generally regarded as limited to the inspection of reported cases of only a few of the infectious diseases, their removal to hospitals when required, and the subsequent proper disinfection of the premises.

In times of emergency, as in the presence of serious epidemics, more comprehensive and stringent measures are considered justifiable. It has not been generally regarded as necessary or desirable that municipal sanitary authorities, at least, should furnish opportunities for, or assistance in, the diagnosis of infectious diseases, should conduct experimental investigations into their causes, should assist in the treatment in any way of cases outside the hospitals, or otherwise concern themselves with these matters. It has seemed to us in New York City, however, that everything connected with infectious diseases in every form came properly within the scope of the department's work.

The first important departure in New York City from the older methods was made in 1892 by the establishment of a bacterio-