

United States, and of cases reported the percentage of deaths is from thirty to thirty-five. Diphtheria is an acute infectious disease, doubtless due to a living organism (microbe), the exact identity of which cannot yet be regarded as settled. Primarily a local affection, the system becomes secondarily and generally infected through absorption of a poison generated at the primary and localized seat of inoculation. The modes of infection are numerous, the contagium being directly transferred by contact in a dry state through the air for limited distances in foul clothing, in polluted food and drink, milk probably being a prolific source of infection. The most difficult problem to solve is that which relates to the conditions most favorable to the growth and development of the germs and the propagation of the disease. While, strictly speaking, diphtheria can hardly be called a filth-disease, since it prevails often to a very limited extent in those localities whose hygienic surroundings are apparently the worst, yet certain kinds of filthy accumulations, such as the ordure of animals, notably the refuse of cowsheds and dairies, seem to furnish the most favorable conditions for the culture of this particular germ. Until this problem can be solved and the life history and habitat of the diphtheritic germ is understood, no definite plan can be formulated for the arrest of the contagion nor for the hopeful treatment of the disease.

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*Third Day—Friday, Sept. 20th.*

The following officers were elected :

President, Dr. S. C. Busey, Washington; 1st Vice-President, Dr. William Pepper, Philadelphia; 2nd Vice-President, Dr. Henry U. Lyman, Chicago; Recorder, Dr. I. Minis Hays, Philadelphia; Secretary, Dr. Henry Hun, Albany; Treasurer, Dr. W. W. Johnston, Washington; Member of Council, Dr. G. Baumgarten, St. Louis; Representative on Executive Committee of Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. William Pepper, Philadelphia.

The following members were elected: Drs. William G. Thompson, William H. Thomson, J. West Roosevelt, New York; Drs. Charles Carey, Charles G. Stockton, Buffalo; Drs. Victor C. Vaughn, Heneage Gibbes, Ann Arbor; Dr. Charles W.