

greatly changed within the past few years, and that owing to better methods of research (especially as to infectious diseases) some form of laboratorial investigation is absolutely indispensable in any well equipped modern health office. It is possible, of course, to find out a great deal by examinations as to localities and the run of cases; but, at the same time, there is a certain degree of certainty and permanence furnished by laboratory experiments not found in any other way. The condition of the city is simply this: They never attempt to look for the germs of any infectious disease, they never investigate as to the locality and sanitary surroundings from which the milk is obtained. The milk is analyzed, it is true, but only with a view to detecting gross adulterations and inferior quality, they are not in a position to do any more.

He called the attention of the Society to this matter, in the hope that some of its members who have more experience than himself in health matters will take some steps to bring about a more satisfactory state of affairs. The need of adopting some plan by which, when a case of infectious disease occurs in the city, the health authorities shall properly and scientifically investigate the same, is obvious in the light of our present knowledge of the etiology of these affections. At the present time the health department is much hampered in its work by the conflicting interest of the "powers that be." The city is rich, and they can afford to pay for the detection of contagious diseases. There are three special points in connection with this matter: (I) The health of the city is largely dependent on the health of the surrounding municipalities, and on this account he thought the business had better be done by the provincial board, whose jurisdiction would extend to these places. (II) Practitioners do not report their cases of typhoid as promptly as they should, and some apparently do not report them at all. Now, it is very evident that unless practitioners reform in this respect, the efforts of any board of health, to be thorough, will be of but little avail. They have no other way to find out suspicious cases, except through the doctors. (III) The necessity of something being done in this respect within a reasonable space of time. As on our prompt and efficient organization will depend our prospect of being able to guard against cholera, the early recognition of cases affords the only chance of suppressing small outbreaks, and to recognize the disease early we must resort to bacteriological examination. The results of laboratorial investigation are, as a rule, more satisfactory in the case of cholera than that of typhoid, because it can be done so much more speedily. With practice, cholera cases can be positively diagnosed in the course of from 24 to 36 hours, and of course that is a great advantage. The

Provincial Board of Health have, of late years, been trying to get this matter on a proper basis. The late Dr. R. L. MacDonnell, especially, tried to accomplish this purpose. It is thought that the Society might join its voice to the demands of the Provincial Board of Health, passing resolutions, making suggestions that may seem proper, and in every possible way insisting upon the establishment of a laboratorial apartment at once for the bacteriological examination.

Dr. KIRKPATRICK stated that in the General Hospital in the winter of '90 and '91 an epidemic of typhoid occurred amongst the nurses and the employees. There were in all fourteen cases, five nurses, two cooks, a wardmaid, an orderly and a fireman. At the time of this outbreak the drainage system was found to be in remarkably good order; some slight defects found, however, were remedied. The milk supply was obtained from a man on the Longue Pointe road, who, it seems, was wont to purchase six or eight gallons daily to fill up the quantity required at the hospital, from a man on the same road, but nearer town. This latter milk was put into the kitchen for cooking purposes, a fact which was brought out by the subsequent investigation. An official examination was made of both places. The first place, that of the man who had the contract, was pronounced everything that could be desired, and no suspicion could be attached to it as the source of infection. Such, however, was not the case with the second place, that of the man who supplied the shortage in the required quantity. He was found to keep a dirty stable, cows in poor condition, pens under the same roof as the stable, and it was the custom to set them down on the dirty floor where the dogs were wont to run and gambol amongst them. The well was situated about 60 feet from the barn, and there was a strong suspicion that he obtained a good deal of his water from the river. Everything in the place contributed to fasten suspicion on this man's premises as the source of infection, and this suspicion was further confirmed later on in October by receiving a patient with typhoid who had been taking milk from this same individual. Yet, owing to the imperfections in our methods of investigation, we could do no more than suspect the real state of affairs. No positive proof could be adduced by the department whereby the guilt might be fastened on this man's place, and effort made to have him change his method of carrying on business.

Dr. J. C. CAMERON related a similar experience the profession had 15 or 16 years ago, and how futile were their efforts to get passed any remedial legislation. Although they succeeded in tracing some 30 cases to one milk supply, upon applying to the authorities to interfere in