

His report we will deal with more in detail in our next issue. Meanwhile, suffice it to say, observations of great value to the scientific world have been made. We all know how much we are indebted to the State Board of Health of Massachusetts for its admirable experiments at Lawrence, Mass. The work at Berlin will add much to our knowledge of the chemical change wrought in sewage by bacterial action in the septic tank, contact bed, etc. Lengthy tables are given of observations of the amounts of ammonia, free and albuminoid, in specimens taken hourly before and after treatment, and of the oxygen consumed, and valuable conclusions drawn as to the limitations of dosage and the capacities of bacteria at various stages and under varying circumstances. The effect of waste products of various industrial processes added to the sewage, and the nature of their substance and processes are also stated. The whole document will be published in the next annual report of the Provincial Board of Health.

Amongst the encouraging features of public health work were letters of congratulation from some localities on the successful stamping out of smallpox. From the reports of epidemics in some of the neighboring States the vigilance of the Provincial and local authorities deserves both to be commended and supported. The percentage of fatalities justifies the warnings made in one of the former reports of the Provincial Board.

A matter of serious consideration drawn at the recent meeting was the present status of the vaccination question, the apathy and neglect in the face of grave danger, and the opposition in some instances. Several circumstances conduce to the latter; the officious spoutings of superficial and vain-glorious cranks, and sometimes the single factor of a bad man in a community has been unreasonably and unreasoningly allowed to cancel all the unknown quantities of lives saved from death by the ravages of smallpox—unknown quantities, but fairly surmisable if we turn to the statistics of epidemics when vaccination has not been practiced. Apathy and neglect arise to a certain extent from the fact that in the absence of an epidemic in a locality, vaccination and its enforcement are not made the strict business of any person, and the family doctor feels that his motives may not be considered disinterested should he press the matter, and bovine vaccine is not as reliable as vaccine of older days. To mend these conditions the Board has in view the simplification of the Vaccination Act, and the making of more definite and reliable provision for vaccination. When the question comes before the profession and the public, it is to be hoped the medical men will discuss it with the Provincial Board, that we may all come to a harmonious conclusion and action.