

whose sole care, like ours, was to watch over the health of mankind and prolong the existence of each of its beings.

By thus judiciously combining the two doctrines we may hope to secure almost absolute immunity and, at the same time, reduce to a minimum the exactions of quarantine and other rigorous measures ; commerce and hygiene may thus be brought to an harmonious understanding and hereafter work in concert.

The calm with which we have witnessed for the last three years the menaces of cholera ; the success with which it has been repulsed from this continent up to now, and the effective protection against yellow fever provided throughout the Mississippi Valley during these last ten years by the model quarantine of New Orleans, prove not only the progress accomplished and the efficacy of the actual system of quarantine, but also the confidence and co-operation of the intelligent public. This is a great step towards success. Let the good results of our labours be repeated and publicly brought out, and our humane instructions and exactions will soon appear less barbarous.

There is still room for progress, both to oppose the introduction of germs and to purify and sterilize the soil, so diminishing danger, and at the same time commercial restraint. Among other things navigation requires looking into. Is everything done by our great steamship companies, usually so interested, to facilitate our arduous task ? Is the sanitary protection afforded sufficient ? Have they on board all their vessels every suggested and available means of stamping out a budding disease and thoroughly destroying its effects ? Have they methods of isolation and disinfection sufficing to protect healthy passengers and save from infection the ports they enter ? Are they sufficiently under the control of health regulations ? Those are questions that deserve our attentive study.

Ladies and Gentlemen—Communicable diseases that arise on our soil, particularly variola, typhoid fever and tuberculosis, have already often been the objects of our labours, and the results obtained, both as regards study and practice, have proved that they may be classed among preventable diseases.

Variola, so frequent and disastrous among us, has been van-