

public, it is highly desirable that trades should be supervised for public health purposes, and (2) that certain legal enactments at present exist of a very imperfect and limited character, having for their object the regulation of certain trades, so that they shall not be injurious to health, is it not a matter of logical necessity that, if it can be shown that there exist other trades not yet provided for, which are actively engaged every now and then in sowing broadcast the seeds of preventible disease, some remedy for such an anomalous state of things cannot be with any sense of consistency and justice longer withheld?

To prove to medical men, and especially to those amongst them who are engaged in the public health service of the country, that zymotic disease is disseminated by tradespeople amongst their unsuspecting customers, is really to waste time and to assume an ignorance of facts which they are constantly deploring. My object in addressing the Association on this subject is rather to suggest to and consult with those medical men who are attending this gathering, as to the best mode in which the existing sanitary law could be so altered and modified as to protect the public from the dangers to which they are exposed in this direction. As these lines will be read, however, by many who do not belong to the medical profession, it will be useful for me to narrate briefly a few instances of the spread of zymotic disease by tradespeople amongst those whom they serve, which have come under my immediate notice.

CASE I. *Scarlet Fever in a Public-house.*—Scarlet fever was exported from London into a public-house in Essex. Whilst the children of the publican lay ill of this disease in the bedrooms, their mother, who was in constant attendance on them, descended to serve each customer who called to partake of refreshment. I, as Medical Officer of Health, advised the temporary closure of this house of call, but my recommendations were unheeded. From that house, as was naturally to be expected, the fever spread into the surrounding parishes, and deaths resulted. There was no legal power to compel a cessation of business during the presence of this communicable disease in the house. It was found that the publican could not be punished under the Clause 126 of the Public Health Act of 1875.