

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING, HELD IN NEW ORLEANS, DEC. 8th TO 10th, 1880.

(Continued.)

This meeting, says the *Sanitarian*, was in some respects the most important and interesting one ever held by the Association. The place and time proved to be particularly well chosen. The public authorities and the citizens, particularly the physicians, welcomed the Association with open hearts and open houses; and by their full attendance on the sessions evinced deep interest in the proceedings. The papers read, and the discussions thereon, were, for the most part, of a high order, characterized by an unusual amount of original work. To the newspapers of the city, and particularly to the *Democrat*, the Association is indebted for unusually full and accurate reports of the proceedings and other courtesies.

Dr. E. M. Hunt, of New Jersey, concluded a lengthy paper on

OUR PRESENT AND NEEDED KNOWLEDGE OF EPIDEMICS,

As follows:—The pride of modern sanitation is that it appreciates so many of the conditions on which the advance of epidemics depends, that it is able to thwart their massing for onslaught and that it is branching out in more radical

directions to see if it cannot prevent the genesis, enlistment and organization, and so arrest the assemblage of the forces for attack. We therefore have thus sought to bring into prominence the direction of thought and investigation as to these diseases, and close by summarizing the chief one in the following propositions:

I. Communicable diseases are owing to a contagium which is particulate. The contagium is not the same as to its modes of facility of conveyance in all cases or in all diseases.

II. Therefore some communicable diseases are only acquired by contact, some by the suspension of the infective particles in air or water, some by changes in the secretions or excretions after they have been sometime in contact with the air, or after avoidance from the body. Whether a contagium has any one or any two or more of these modes of ingress is a matter to be determined only by the classification of closely observed facts.

III. Some contagiums have only an origin external to the body, while others have an origin only within the body. In either case they seem to be connected with decompositions attended with extraordinary processes of a fermentive or putrefactive character. It is also possible that some diseases have an origin both within and without the human body.