

smallpox, etc. We will then see in the estimates of health officers such an item as this: "For dealing with cases of consumption, \$10,000." The money would be forthcoming in every municipality, and scarcely a taxpayer would raise an objection to the fraction of a mill so levied on his assessment.

The Wasserman Reaction for the Diagnosis of Syphilis.—

Some two years ago Wasserman introduced a new method for the diagnosis of syphilis, whether in acute or tertiary form, the reaction being based on the use of the serum of apes artificially infected. The method, however, is so elaborate in its technique that it cannot be carried out except in a properly equipped laboratory. Wasserman employed an extract of the liver of a child which had died of congenital syphilis. An immune serum was obtained by treating monkeys with this extract. But he later found that, in a patient suffering from syphilis, serum could be got which took the place of the immune serum from the monkey. In other words, the specific immune body for syphilis is contained in the serum of such syphilized individuals. It is valuable only from a diagnostic standpoint, and it would appear from observations, in confirmation of Wasserman's findings, that it is a specific reaction, and is found only in those who have or have had the disease. It has been positive in hemiplegia, negative in simple apoplexy; also in cases of paralysis and tabo-paralysis. One observer and experimenter, Schutze, says: (1) The longer the syphilis virus has remained in the body, and the more frequently it has produced symptoms, the greater is the amount of "antibody" in the serum, and therefore the more regularly does the reaction show a positive result; (2) the earlier that mercury has been employed in the treatment of the disease, and the longer that treatment has been carried out, and the more frequently it has been applied, the smaller will be the amount of "antibody" contained in the serum, and the more often will the test be negative.

The Strength of Tetanus Antitoxin can now be measured by four methods: There is the German method of Behring; that of Roux, of France; the Italian—Tizzoni; the American method. The European, being complicated and difficult to carry out, not accurate, admittedly unsatisfactory, brings into prominence the American—simple, direct and accurate. It is the result of six years' careful work in the National Hygienic Laboratory. Since the estab-