

THE President of the Association at this meeting, held at Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 20, 21 and 22, was Dr. Chas. N. Hewitt, secretary of the Minnesota State Board of Health. His address treated of the condition of sanitary affairs the land over. He called for less red tape and offensive centralized co-operation, and independence of local, State, national health boards. The true function of the national board he deemed to be to facilitate and to cement the independence of State boards, and to provide a thorough national system of sanitary inspection.

The first paper was on 'The Pollution of Water Supplies,' by Charles Smart, M D., U.S.A. His opinion was that, reduced to its lowest and simplest terms, the question of water supply is this: the raising of sufficient money to bring in the wholesome water, and the investment of the health officer with sufficient power to preserve the wholesome quality of the public supply, and to prevent the use of water from sources which are known to be unwholesome.

Dr. Lee, secretary of the Pennsylvania State Board of Health, sent a paper giving his opinions of our quarantine service formed after a personal inspection. These opinions were:—1. Want of uniformity in quarantine regulations, placing one part at a disadvantage (either commercially or sanitarily) as compared with another. 2. Conflict of authority owing to the methods of appointing officials. 3. Entire lack of appreciation on the part of local legislatures, whether State or Municipal, of the importance of the expenditure of considerable amounts of money in order to render quarantines at once efficient and inoppressive. 4. Tendency on the part of local, civil, and sanitary authorities to limit their responsibility to the protection of their own city, reckless of the consequences which may ensue to inland communities if they permit infection, which circumstances render harmless to themselves, to pass unchallenged to the latter.

Dr. Gray, health officer of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, accounted for a typhoid fever epidemic and for the fact that the

death-rate on one side of a stream bisecting his city was six per cent. higher than the other, to the fact that the water supply drawn from the Monongahela River was being seriously, steadily, and increasingly polluted by sewage, factory refuse, and by bumboat nuisances.

Dr. Barker, secretary of the Michigan State Board of Health, asked for a more methodical and significant classification of vital statistics.

Harbour quarantine was treated in three descriptive papers by Dr. Frederick Montizambert, of Grosse Isle quarantine station, Lower St. Lawrence River, Dr. S. H. Durgin, health officer of Boston, and Dr. L. N. Salomon, secretary of the Louisiana State Board of Health.

Dr. S. S. Kilrington, health officer of Minneapolis, read a paper describing all the garbage-burning experiments made in England during the past decade, and of four crematories in reasonably successful operation in that city.

Dr. Jerome Cochrane, health officer of Alabama, who has been shut up all summer in the fever-infected town of Decatur, read a paper on yellow fever, which held that the disease is caused by a transportable and transmissible specific poison, the germs not appearing to be bacteria of a generic distinction or kind, the probability pointing rather to a pathologically productive condition of the flora ordinarily resident in the alimentary canal. Infectious and communicable, though probably not by contact but by environment, exotic in this country, non-intercourse is the best prophylactic. Domiciliary quarantine, followed by thorough disinfection, is necessary.

The Lomb Prize was given this year for the best paper on sanitary cooking, the first prize being \$500, and was awarded to Mary J. Hinman, wife of John J. Abel, now resident at Strasburg. There were sixty-nine other contestants, not one of whom was deserving the second prize.

The new president of the Association is Dr. Hosmer Johnson, of Chicago, member of the ex-National Board of Health. The next meeting will be held in Brooklyn, N.Y., in November, 1899.