

organization could be formed and be of practical use would be rather utopian.

The greatest difficulty, perhaps, to contend with in the adoption of international sanitary regulations, is that of the too often conflicting interests of "trade" and "commerce." Mr. Evarts, as Secretary of State, at the opening of the Washington conference, said, "nations, in regarding these matters, must understand that there is a great continuing interest of intercourse and commerce which must not be lightly disturbed, and should be no more disparaged and no more interrupted than a reasonably solicitous attention to the preservation of public health should require." This ought not to be the feeling; but the interests of trade and commerce are all-powerful, and, as the majority rule, the public health must be a secondary consideration. As with individuals, so with nations, the accumulation of wealth is, practically, regarded as of more consequence than health.

Another difficulty, and one which became prominent at the Washington conference, was the great extent of territory of some countries as compared with others, the sparser population, and the consequent difficulties in obtaining regular and accurate statements or statistics relating to the condition of the public health. While the difficulties relating to "trade" might, with the consent of the people, be overcome, those relating to extent of territory and scattered population might be absolutely insurmountable. In regard to the latter difficulty, at the Washington conference, Canada was at a disadvantage, but her interests were carefully guarded by her representative there.

Again, some countries have sanitary organizations within themselves so much superior to what other countries have

that a difficulty comes up here. A fair degree of reciprocity between them all cannot be at all easily obtained.

The whole subject of international hygiene may be considered under three heads: first, its nature and objects, and the obligations as relating to all countries considered as a compact; second, as it relates to each country in itself; third, as it relates to foreign countries, on the territory of each party to the compact.

First, then, as to the nature and objects of international sanitary regulations, and the obligations as relating to all the countries in the compact.

Though international hygiene involves very wide-spread interests, it only comprises, after all, a comparatively small portion of the subject of public health, having relation only to those diseases which are communicable. It is not directly concerned with drainage, sewerage, water supply, &c., though indirectly and to a limited extent it has a bearing upon these, as it has, and more directly, upon the food supply. It is almost wholly limited to infectious diseases—to all that relates to those agencies, whatever they are—seeds, germs, contagiums, which may be carried about from one country to another in merchandise of various sorts, wearing apparel and by persons. Cholera and yellow fever being so rapidly destructive of life, are the diseases which have engaged the principal attention of conventions. The latter seems hardly to concern Canada, no cases of it having ever yet been known so far north, with the exception of a few cases brought by shipping; though it seems quite possible that the contagium of it might at times be imported and develop the disease during the hot season. Small-pox and typhus come next in im-