

should become standardized, just as truly as that of farm stock or the effectiveness of an army machine, is being made plain today, not more from the needs of the situation than from what has been accomplished.

Unemployment Through Ill-health Obviously, what is first necessary is to obtain the facts regarding existing conditions in every community. This is being here and there worked out by sanitary surveys of local areas. In August, 1915, and in February, 1916, a survey of a New York area, holding 30,000 persons, was made by the Board of Health. It was a dense district, but still one in which, owing to the age and type of population, the mortality is lowest. At both extremes of life the incidence of disease was found to be greatest, and greater in both in February than in August; yet, further, in the group between 5 and 14 years, the incidence of sickness was four times as high in February, on account of contagious diseases. It is remarked: "The excessively high rate amongst the unemployed must be attributed to the fact that ill-health was the cause of unemployment of many in this group. Of the 757 sick, or 2.5 per cent of the total population in February, 75 per cent were incapacitated, while more than one-fifth were in hospitals or sanatoria, pensioners of the public." Comparing the August with the February census, and striking an average, the report states, it may fairly be said that every day in the year there would be 548 cases sick, or, say, 500 in 30,000, or 1 in every 60; of whom 300 are incapacitated—just 1 per cent. In 33 cases of tuberculosis the duration was over 3 years. Of the total 79 per cent received treatment from a physician and 11 per cent used family remedies. Of the 79 per cent, there were 34 who received treatment by private physicians, 35 per cent from dispensaries and 10 per cent in hospitals. On an estimate of \$1 for cost of treatment and drugs, the lost earning capacity in wages to this community would be \$200,000 annually, or \$40 per family, equal to \$400,000,000 for all New York.

Discussing the general result of this sickness census the report states:

"While much is to be done in combatting the ravages of the infectious diseases, we have, nevertheless, accomplished so much in reducing their incidence and mortality, that we may now turn our attention to those other diseases which, while not communicable or infectious, are nevertheless preventable. We refer particularly to the degenerative diseases. Nor is prevention of these diseases an easy matter, calling for such simple sanitary precautions as isolation, quarantine and the like—measures which the department clearly has the power to enforce; but rather does the prevention of these diseases lie in attacking the social problems of today, and in attacking those problems over which the power of the department is perforce limited. Our study of the mortality of the city, by sanitary areas, has supplied