

"the River Seine reeking with filth, and many of the crowded thoroughfares in like condition." Such a state of affairs was the result of criminal neglect. He said, "The masses of people, and even educated people, are not well informed in regard to the germs of disease in the human body, in the soil we tread, and in the air we breathe; but we all know what filth is, and that it can be removed from our persons and houses, from our workshops and surroundings, from polluted streets and streams which, as in the Seine and the Thames, and in places nearer home, are simply sources of corruption." . . . "Whether cholera comes, or does not come to stay, in the first or second epidemic, or whether it is epidemic at all, or whether it is infectious or not, or is communicated by persons, bedding, beds, travels on land or by ships from abroad, or originates in offensive manure heaps, dust or dirt, are secondary questions to the absolute necessity of using all the means in human power to meet the disease. Every man and woman at home, in workshops, in stores, every official, and especially those engaged in health work, ought to be sanitarians. We know from long experience, prolonged suffering, frequent investigations, and progressive science, what is possible; and the possible should be practical." . . . "The experience of the past in the visitation of Asiatic Cholera, both in Europe and the United States, extends over fifty years of time. The disease has ceased to be a mystery. We now know that it grows in filth, and grows upon what it feeds, whether starting from special germs, or otherwise. This cause of offence alone, apart from the threats of danger of the cholera, should be removed. This is tangible, practical work. As a layman in the presence of skilful physicians and sanitarians from all parts of the country, I appeal to corporations, health boards, communities, citizens, and States, to enforce that best element of public safety—decent cleanliness in our dwellings, places of business, surroundings, and in every tangible place. Peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must, is in such questions the necessary law of government."

The President concluded his address by declaring that cholera ought to be excluded from the United States by quarantine laws and

their proper execution. But an administration like this, for practical safety, requires capable persons, constant vigilance, complete material and equipments, and willing obedience to wise authority. And such I understand to be the objects of legislation by the representatives of the State Health Boards now assembled at Washington.

The work of the Conference then proceeded. Three Committees were appointed, to which were referred all matters which came under the jurisdiction of each. First, *Federal legislation*; second, *State action*; third, *Municipal action*. The principal work of the first Committee was that of framing a bill for the action of Congress, to reorganize the National Board of Health, and to take steps to prevent vessels from landing coming from infected ports, unless such vessels shall have been fumigated and disinfected prior to leaving such ports, and a violation of the law in this respect may entail a forfeit of \$1000. The report of this Committee was adopted, and the Committee was instructed to confer with the Public Health Committee of Congress, which was done on Friday. The draft of a bill was read, and the members of the Public Health Committee of Congress expressed themselves as in harmony with the principles of the bill. It seemed to be the general opinion that either the bill submitted, or an approaching to it, would become law during the present session of Congress.

The Committee on State Action reported favorably as to harmonious action among several States of the Union in reference to the cholera.

The Committee on Municipal Action submitted a very practical report containing important recommendations, recommendations, however, which have been made again and again by our Provincial Board of Health, the Medical Health Officer of Toronto, and other sanitary officers.

Beside the work of the Committees, there were received the reports from the several States and cities represented. These sanitary reports varied in character. Some were lengthy, some short; some written, and some verbal—all more or less interesting and useful. One particularly, by Dr. Raymond, Health Commissioner of Brooklyn, was very valuable; also