

### Public Health and the U. S. Congress.

A protest is registered in a statement given out by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis against the existing conditions in the United States Congress which require measures concerning public health to be referred to a committee on commerce. At the same time, a plea was made for a new Committee on Public Health in the House of Representatives, similar to the one now existing in the Senate.

The National Association in its statement supports the Committee of One Hundred on National Health in its assertion that under the present division of committees, owing to the large number of measures before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, public health matters do not receive the attention they deserve. The statement says that hogs, cows, and steel rails receive much more attention than that most vital disease. At the present time, the anti-tuberculosis workers declare, no committee in the House has any direct responsibility for health legislation. It is therefore suggested that a new committee be formed, similar to the one in the Senate.

The National Association is appealing to its 510 affiliated associations in all parts of the United States to support the movement for the formation of such a committee in the House.

### Rochester's Health Officer and Child Hygiene.

In his recent report Health Officer Goler of Rochester discusses child hygiene. This is what Dr. Goler says on the subject:

When a little child is born into the world it ought not to find waiting at the threshold a foul disease that will rob it of its sight; deprived of its mother's milk, with its one little stomach it has to labor hard to digest the milk intended for a big calf baby with four stomachs, even if that milk is free from manure and filth; and as it grows it is overshadowed by the awful menace of the infectious diseases of childhood, by adenoids, tonsillar enlargement and tooth decay.

Adenoid growths and tonsils, both large and small, together with the infectious diseases of childhood, are responsible for most of the early tooth decay; for the low sta-

ture and weight for age, often amounting to as much as 8 per cent. at the age of 14; for the lopsided ears, red eyelids and asymmetrical mal-development of the face.

We have prevented many of the hunchbacks, club feet, knock knees, the smallpox and syphilis in the young, even some striking physical deformities in the stunted bodies and irregular faces of our children. Among the most evident of these deformities is that produced by tooth decay, and it is the first to the relief and then to the prevention of this condition that we must now address our efforts, trusting that in the time to come we may so broadly teach the lessons of child hygiene, and we may have such active public support for them, that the time will soon arrive when all children will be of robust body, average stature and having early been relieved of their adenoids and tonsils, having escaped the so-called infectious diseases of childhood, they will, as a result of the care of the physician and dentist, present in their mouths regular and unfilled sets of teeth. the presence of a prominent filling or a gold crown in the mouth of a child will be a sign to all men that neither the state nor the parents has yet learned the lesson and the value of child hygiene.

Five years ago fifty children under 15, who were temporarily refused permits to work because they were undersized and under weight, were subjected to a closer inspection — not to be termed an examination. The average height of these children was 56.2 inches. Hitchcock gives as the average height of Boston school children of the same age period 60.5 inches. The average weight of these fifty children was 77½ pounds. Hitchcock's average of children at the same age period was 94 pounds.

Of the fifty children examined, all of them had lost one or more permanent teeth, and they had several caries, in some cases more or less rudimentary teeth. Nearly every child had dirty teeth.

Forty-seven had dental defects, and in addition to these had diseases of the nose and throat, such as naso-pharyngeal catarrh, large tonsils or obstructed nostrils. Five had defects of the teeth, nose, throat, ear, and marked enlargement of the cervical lymph glands. Four had defects of teeth, nose, throat, and eczema. Five had dental caries, naso-pharyngeal diseases and marked, asymmetry of the