

Dr. Fishberg refers to the long-observed fact of the relatively small amount of tuberculosis amongst the Jewish race and discusses race immunity, inbreeding, the Kosher meat theory, and freedom from alcoholism; statistics prove that all of them enter but little, if at all, into the problem. He afterwards stated what to me is a very important scientific conclusion, containing as it does a sanitary lesson of the greatest possible meaning and value to all sanitary workers. He says: "Be that as it may, we know that on the whole tuberculosis displays no racial preferences. Within certain limits, depending on social conditions, the white, black, yellow, and red divisions of mankind are attacked by this disease in the same manner; and the variations observed in the frequency, type, and course of the disease in different groups of people are alike traceable to the same causes, irrespective of racial affinities. We know that the variations displayed by the various social groups of white humanity, such as the difference in the incidence of the disease between city and country dwellers, rich and poor, those engaged in indoor or outdoor occupations, those active in a dusty atmosphere as compared with such as are working in clean, airy shops, and the like, are just as great and often greater than the difference observed in the white, black, red, or yellow races.

"As I will show, these differences are due to social conditions and not to racial causes. ***** the incidence of tuberculosis among Jews depends more on their economic and social environment than on racial or natural affinities." Speaking of its prevalence in the Jews in New York, Dr. Fishberg says: "The Jews in the lower East Side are more orthodox, more strictly adhering to their faith and traditions, and still have a proportionately higher rate of mortality from tuberculosis than their co-religionists in Harlem, who as is characteristic of Jews all over, with their prosperity have more or less discarded many of their religious practices, the first of which consists in consuming meat not prepared according to the dietary laws."

In the paper of Dr. Stella it is pointed out that in 1890 the United States had only 182,500 Italians, while in 1908 the City of New York alone had 500,000, or 75% of the total population in that state, of whom nine-tenths were of the agricultural peasant class. Stella first points out that in Italy the deaths from tuberculosis were 1.64 per 1,000, but in Calabria, whence come most of the immigrants, the rate was only 0.9 per 1,000; but in New York the rate was 2.76 per 1,000 in 1906, compared with 1.49 for the whole city in the 1900 census. But as Stella says, "if this rate in New York should not appear so very excessive, I would direct you to the fact that only a certain portion of the Italian tuberculosis popula-