

COAST DEFENSES AGAINST ASIATIC CHOLERA.

REPORT OF AN INSPECTION OF THE QUARANTINES MAINTAINED UPON THE ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS FROM THE ST. LAWRENCE TO THE RIO GRANDE.

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At the July, 1885, meeting of the Illinois STATE BOARD OF HEALTH the Secretary was instructed by a resolution of the BOARD "to inspect the methods of quarantine of the Louisiana State Board of Health and their actual operation at the stations below New Orleans; and also to extend his inspection of quarantine methods and regulations to such other ports and places as he may deem necessary in the interests of the public health of the State, with especial reference to the exclusion of Asiatic cholera and small-pox."

Such inspection was designed to supplement the action of the BOARD—instituted on receipt of the first information that Asiatic cholera had again invaded Europe, threatening another pandemic extension—and which action aimed to secure the best attainable sanitary condition of the territory under its immediate jurisdiction as one of the most important preparations against the spread of the disease within the State, should the contagion be introduced.

The geographical position of Illinois—within 24 to 48 hours of all the important ports on the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts—its commercial relations, the extent and character of its means of communication, and the fact that fully one-half of the immigrants to this country come into or pass through the State, most of them remaining at least long enough to communicate contagion and under conditions favorable to such communication, obviously make the administration of these quarantines—with especial reference at this time to the exclusion of Asiatic cholera—a matter of sufficient importance to warrant the BOARD in securing all accessible information concerning them, the better to enable it to discharge its duty in connection with the protection of the lives and health of the citizens of the State.

In the present epoch of quarantine Illinois has a direct interest—chiefly commercial—in the exclusion of yellow fever from the Mississippi Valley; in the exclusion of vaccinally-unprotected immigrants at the North Atlantic ports for the protection of her own territory from small-pox; and in the exclusion of Asiatic cholera generally, whether it threatens by direct importation from Europe or mediately through the West Indies, Mexico and South America. In brief, the State is concerned in the condition of the sanitary coast defenses from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the mouth of the Rio Grande.