

bacteriological examination of the stools, not only of cases or suspected cases, but of all those who had been exposed to infection. This examination resulted in the discovery of a number of cases in which the stools were found to contain the comma bacillus in quantities, yet no sickness had resulted. All such cases were isolated exactly as if they were cholera cases, and as a consequence every outbreak was stamped out with marvellous success.

We have, then, in the prophylaxis of zymotic diseases, to take special account of these two conditions—the condition of virulence of the infecting germ, and the condition of susceptibility in the person exposed. They are, in fact, by far the most important conditions which we have to deal with.

When a zymotic disease breaks out, we have it in our power under the Health Act, and the public are sufficiently educated to enable us to carry out all the proper precautions with regard to disinfection and isolation, so that with well-marked cases it is possible to guard against infection and spread of the disease. But before we can hope for perfect results, we must take like precautions with regard to those slight manifestations of disease, which may be due to germs of a low degree of virulence. How we are to diagnose and discover such cases is a difficult question to answer, and a question which in many cases requires much wider knowledge than we have at present to solve; but it is nevertheless extremely important.

In one disease, however, there are greater possibilities than in many others, that is in diphtheria. The bacteriological diagnosis is possible in diphtheria, no matter how mild the case. In fact it is the only safe and certain method of diagnosis; and I doubt not that if we could carry out in diphtheria such a method as has been carried out in Germany in regard to cholera, viz.; the bacteriological examination of the fauces of everyone who has been exposed to contagion, we would have many more cases similar to the ones I have cited, in which the germ was present in the throat of some individual without the manifestation of the disease.

On the other hand we may still be as careful as possible in regard to the hygienic surroundings of the community, because of their

effects upon the development and aim of the pure as possible bacteriology, and germs in zymotic to look upon the in the causation be over-estimated scientific knowledge we recognize the of increasing success were considered