

Mumps	517
Chicken-pox	380
Whooping-cough	276
Measles	253
Parasitic diseases of the body.	152
Diphtheria	118
Scarlet Fever.....	32
Croup	25
Miscellaneous	21
	—
	7,606

Every one of these 7,606 cases was not merely a case of disease in itself, but a seed of disease, planted in a most fructifying soil, with all the conditions present for its rapid and widespread multiplication. Consider for a moment. There are in the borough of Manhattan approximately 200,000 in attendance at the public schools, while the total population is about 2,000,000. What will it mean to prevent these 200,000 children (or ten per cent. of the population) from being cultivators and disseminators of contagion? It will mean first and obviously the elimination of the greatest causative factor in the production of epidemics. It has been no uncommon thing in the past to see certain public schools closed up on account of the raging of an epidemic among

the children and the families to which they belonged. Under the system now in practice this has already become an impossibility. It will mean, secondly, the suppression of numerous manifestations of disease which, while not presenting the danger of an epidemic, nevertheless amount in the aggregate to a vast sum of physical ill.

It is manifest, as I have said, that the statistics of the subject are merely indicative of the real results achieved. The inspection system removes the seed of disease from the soil. Just how much harm it thereby prevents it is impossible to say. But the good is not therefore either intangible, theoretical or uncertain.

Some years ago a cow kicked over a lamp. Had Chicago possessed a thoroughly efficient fire department, the blaze resulting might have been lost sight of in the statistical reports among the "miscellaneous" insignificant fires. But the efficient department had not been created, and half of Chicago was laid in ashes.—*The New York Medical Journal*.

"The Russian Government began to meditate a railroad connecting the western and eastern boundary as early as 1860, but with so little definiteness that seven years later, in 1867, it sold Alaska to the United States for \$7,000,000, because it was felt that Russian America must forever remain too far away. If this sale had not been made we might today be anticipating the early completion of a Russian railroad, not to Vladivostok, 4,500 miles from our nearest seaport, but to Fort Wrangell, almost at our own doors on Puget Sound"

In March, 1891, Czar Alexander III. signed the ukase giving the imperial sanction to a railroad

across Siberia. On the following 30th day of May the present Emperor, then Czarovitch, on his way around the world, visited Vladivostok and drove the first spike. On December, 1892, work was begun in earnest. The work has so far progressed that even now it is considered practically finished, and it is expected that it will be actually completed in 1903; \$150,000,000 have been appropriated for its cost, and it is thought that it will be sufficient to finish the work.

The Trans Siberian railway has its official starting point at Tcheliabinsk in the Ural Mountains, and its eastern terminus at the port of Vladivostok.