

into France, growing in virulence as it came. It jumped across the English Channel to Great Britain. It swept across the Atlantic Ocean; it burned its way across this continent, and down into South America; it jumped the Pacific Ocean to Asia. It laid waste the entire continent of Asia; and in the end it was down in the South Sea Islands and up among the Eskimos in Alaska. It had taken a toll of victims three times the number of those killed and wounded in the four years of the war, from 1914 to 1918. All of a sudden, the members of the human race, regardless of whether they were Englishmen, or Uruguayans, or Siamese, or Chinese, or Brazilians, found themselves confronted with a common enemy that could be fought only as common plans and measures were marshalled against it.

Take for example, the disease called infantile paralysis. We have just had an epidemic here in the United States and thousands of parents will not soon forget the terror of the visitation of 1915. Where did that 1915 epidemic come from? Apparently it came over on an Italian ship. The ship docked in Brooklyn, and the disease crept through the borough almost before the health authorities knew it was there. It jumped Long Island Sound to Connecticut; it backed down the Hudson River Valley to New York; then up the Hudson River Valley to Canada; west across Canada to the Pacific Ocean; and across the Pacific Ocean to China. And it left behind it broken bodies and ruined homes.

Whatever you may think about the new experiment at Geneva, which is called the League of Nations, this one thing it has done: it has established a Health Section, and this Section in ten years has developed into one of the important cogs of the new international machinery. There you have the best brains that fifty-five nations can bring together—epidemiologists, immunologists, bacteriologists, and other specialists chosen without regard to national boundary lines. These men are devoting themselves to a cooperative fight against the international spread of disease. In 1921, typhus began to creep out of Russia into eastern Poland. It was not a matter that concerned Poland alone, or Germany alone, or Norway and Sweden alone. It concerned the family of nations, living together in the same world. And because it was a matter of common concern, the League's Health Section took it up. They threw a sani-