

signable cause for the course which the disease took. It thus appears that the cause assigned is a "true cause," that it was "present and acting," and that "no other known cause was present and acting." When it is remembered that the spread of the disease began with the schools in December, 1875, slackened when the schools had a vacation in March, increased with the opening of schools in April, May, June and July, slackened when the schools had a vacation in July, August and September, increased with the opening of schools in September and October, and only slackened after the citizens had occasion to be generally alarmed, after the Board of Education had invoked the help of physicians to aid in enforcing an order to stop the spreading of the disease by the schools, and after a large proportion of the children had already had the disease—when in addition it is noticed, as is shown in the diagram which I have had prepared, that in two of the three instances the decline of the disease bears what may be believed to be a quantitative relation to the length of the vacation, I think it must be admitted by every candid and thoughtful person that the evidence is about as convincing as we usually have to base conclusions upon.

HOW CAN THE SCHOOLS GO ON WITHOUT DISSEMINATING DISEASE?

In relation to public sanitation business interests are great, but educational interests are probably greater, at least to a rising generation, which is soon to displace us. Under present imperfect methods there seems to be no escape from one of two evils—either the schools continue and spread scarlet fever,

diphtheria and other communicable diseases throughout cities and throughout States, or the schools are closed, and though the public health, which is of the greatest consequence, is furthered thereby, the whole educational work is for the time broken up.

For the best interests of the schools and for public health we need an entirely different kind of work from what we now have, a much more thorough, systematic, continuous and rational effort.

Let us consider what needs to be done in order that the schools may go on continuously and yet not spread disease.

The two most important general principles of action should be: Isolation of the sick, and complete disinfection of all infected material. In order that this shall be possible in relation to the schools of a city, it is essential to have such a thorough organization of the health authority of the city as that suspected cases of communicable diseases shall be promptly reported to the local board of health, and be immediately visited, and the truth learned, whether or not the case is one involving danger to the community. The health authority must be given money sufficient to have such work done with nearly as much promptness as the fire department displays in visiting the locality of a reported fire; and as the firemen remain until the fire is out, so the health department might have its officer or employee remain until the disease is over; he should watch and guard the public safety. He ought to use disinfectants skillfully, and, if need be, as freely as water, until all danger of a fresh outbreak should be prevented. He should see to it that in no way does