

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

THE twenty-sixth annual meeting of this Association was held in Ottawa September 27th to 30th. This Association comprises members from the three divisions of this continent, Mexico being represented at this meeting by seven delegates, Canada by about twenty, and the remainder of the 70 members coming from the various States of the Union. The sessions were held in the Railway Committee Room, of the Parliament buildings under the Chairmanship of the President, Dr. Chas. A. Lindsley, Secretary of the State Board of Health of Connecticut.

On the first day the Association proceeded to a discussion of methods of sewage disposal, the subject being considered more particularly in reference to the prevention of water pollution by permitting untreated sewage to flow into rivers, streams or lakes. Dr. Bucke, of London, Ont., described the method of disposal of sewage at the Insane Asylum there, where the sewage flows upon the farm (properly underdrained). The system works admirably, and even in winter months filtration goes on (under a surface scum of ice), the heat of the sewage sufficing to keep the ground open. Various methods in use in other cities, such as filtration over coke, coal, etc.; precipitation and other chemical processes were described. No one method could be passed upon as being the best, as different localities required different methods. It was reiterated that methods which prevented pollution of air and water supply, while at the same time they retained as much as possible of the manurial value of the sewage at the least expense consistent with efficiency were the methods which should be adopted.

Professor Shutt, of Ottawa, in reading a paper on the Farm Well says that the vast majority of these wells show organic pollution, while quite a large percentage furnish water which is but little better than that from cesspools. It can be readily seen in view of recent researches that once such a disease as typhoid fever establishes itself in a rural community—it will find in such farm well and in the surrounding polluted soil, conditions under which its microbe may remain alive and continue to be for years a point from which the disease may be propagated.

Yellow Fever occupied a great part of Wednesday's morning session, but to us it is non-interesting. The committee on the