

instance; but it is not known whether the same be a living organism, similar to the cholera microbe, or, as seems more probable, the product of some quasi fermentative process like that caused by the yeast fungus, which in feeding on sugar decomposes into alcohol, carbonic acid, and water. These germs do not appear to be bacteria of generically distinctive character or kind, the probabilities pointing rather to a pathologically productive condition of the flora ordinarily resident in the alimentary canal. It is infectious, and moreover communicable, but whether from the patient's respiration, secretions, or excrements is unknown, as is also its route of ingress into the human organism whether from the skin, by inspiration or alimentation. Though this point is also not yet quite certainly determined, it is more than probable that not personal contact, but the immediate environments, as is the case of typhus and cholera, produces the infection. It is in the United States, however, always of exotic origin; and, as in the case of a shower of sparks on a shingle roof, it is but one, perhaps, that will set fire to the building. Yet one or two sporadic cases are very unlikely, if properly handled, to produce an epidemic, even under otherwise unfavorable conditions. For it may be laid down, as a general proposition, that, in order to get across the street, or over a wall, this infectious 'what-is-it' must be lugged there, as it were, by hand or in a bundle. Thus jails, convents, and secluded private domiciles are demonstrated to be their own best quarantines."

Dr. A. W. Bell, of New York, followed, while Col. Hadden, Mayor of Memphis and an old sanitarian of the Mississippi, in a speech practical pointed and humorous, told what a yellow-fever panic meant in the South, and how they had to cope with this, the greater evil of the two.

Dr. H. F. Hoyt, of St. Paul, read a paper on the sanitary progress of his city and was followed by W. W. Payne, of U. S. Signal Service, who urged co-operation between health officers and this service, to the end that by the graphic compilation of "weather" and "health" data, their causative relationships may be established.

During the afternoon many of the members went to examine the "Destructor" furnaces, the old "Forrester," and the new "Engle." These interesting matters will be referred to again.

The evening session was a largely attended and

most interesting one. D. E. Salmon, D.V.M., Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, read a paper on "Tuberculosis, its Origin, Detection, and Control." He pointed out in a few words the overwhelming importance of the subject of consumption, inasmuch as 131,000 is computed as the number of persons who will have died of this disease in the United States during the current year. While technically precise and scientifically accurate throughout, the doctor's paper yet treated the subject in a popularly instructive manner. The bacillus was shown to enter the human organism, not by direct transference from one person to another, but on the one hand through the air and water we all consume, surcharged as they are with the dust of human and animal secretions; and on the other, by much of the beef and milk that despite its infected condition find a ready market. Little hope was held out for the attainment of even a measurable control of the disease except by stamping it out in cattle.

The stereopticon illustrations of the microbes of the disease were most admirable and greatly instructive to the popular audience present.

This paper was followed by one on "Some Observations on the Origin and Sources of Disease Germs," by Theobald Smith, M.D., of the Bacteriological Laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Daniel Doty, of the town of Pullman, gave a full and extremely instructive and interesting talk on the growth of the town of Pullman and its sanitary perfections. Undoubtedly the sewers and methods of the disposal of sewage are an enormous stride in advance in public health work.

The award of the Lomb prize essay on Practical Dietetics and Cooking, was thereafter announced, the successful essayist being May J. Hinman, wife of Dr. J. J. Abel, of Strasburg, Germany, where both the doctor and wife are attending the university. Of the remaining sixty-nine essays not one was deemed worthy of the second prize.

The subsequent sessions were mostly for routine work, the reception of reports and the election of officers.

The following is the list of officers:—

*Advisory Council.*—J. C. Dozier, Birmingham, Ala.; H. C. Donnavant, Osceola, Ark.; T. H. Orme, Los Angeles, Cal.; Chas. Ambrook, Boulder, Colo.; R. S. Goodwin, Thomaston, Conn.; O. W. Archibald, Jamestown, Dak.; L. P. Bush, Washington, Del.; Hon. Harrison Reed,