

efficacy, even urgency, of the requested measures, we can oppose the authority of decisions rendered on those questions by the most authorized and disinterested sanitarians of various countries ; such decisions having been formed in open convention, after serious study and discussion, possess a value and respect which cannot easily be ignored or set aside. We have the hope, therefore, of seeing governments ignore the opposition of the one and the apathy of the others to accede to our humane demands.

Such have been the cares and tendencies of our Association since its foundation, and we may state with pride that the results obtained so far, in all directions, are an encouragement to labour on earnestly and vigorously for the achievement of the task that is left to be accomplished. May the success of the future even exceed that of the past !

To fulfil the spirit of our annual meetings, we must then choose questions that require the most immediate decision, study them fully, discuss them attentively, and try to effect a solution of them based on the experience of other countries and on the most recent decrees of modern science. We must bear in mind that ours is a science of application, whose problems may differ according to localities and circumstances ; and that, it thus belongs to each state and province to choose questions, and accept solutions most in accordance with local customs, climate and legislation.

We shall thus have to consider particularly exotic epidemic diseases and communicable affections of local origin in order to discover the most efficient means of protection against invasion by the one, and against the development and spread of the others.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—The protection against exotic contagious diseases is based on two theories, each having its staunch supporters.

According to the one, epidemics are due to, or are maintained by the unhealthiness of the soil ; to insure its permanent salubrity is therefore the best means of preventing and suppressing epidemics. England has supported this doctrine, and