

which will protect health and prevent fraud, and at the same time not impose unnecessary burdens upon trade, is a matter of very great difficulty, as the result of this competition clearly shows, for we do not consider any of the Acts proposed to be satisfactory.

We do not think that any law upon the adulteration of food and drugs can be made efficient without a properly constituted health authority to supervise its execution. The questions involved are in a high degree technical, and require special training in those charged with administering the law. At the same time we think that the existence of such health authorities should be taken for granted in the Acts, and that these should not attempt to create them.

We believe that every State should have a Board of Health, but that such Boards should be created by independent legislation.

We think it unadvisable that the law should attempt to define in detail as to what an adulteration is. A very considerable amount of discretion should be left to the Board of Health in this respect, limiting it only in the direction of possible over rigidity. Many well recognized articles of commerce, although harmless and even useful, may be said to be adulterated, and it should be left to the discretion of the Board to exempt any article from the penalties imposed in the Act.

TYPHOID FEVER.

In an address to the Society of Medical Officers of Health recently, John S. Bristowe, M. D. F.R.C.P., Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, President of the Society, said: With regard to enteric fever, sanitary science has made discoveries which are of great practical importance. We know that the contagion or

poison of the disease is contained mainly, if not exclusively, in the alvine evacuations of patients who are ill of it, and in that of no other persons whatever; and that it is by the pollution of drinking-water and of other articles of diet by minute proportions of these poisonous evacuations that the disease is propagated. It is largely for this reason that our present system of sewerage is superior to the old plan of fæcal storage in cesspools and middens; and that the water supplied by the water companies is so much safer than that derived from superficial wells, and (notwithstanding Dr. Frankland's monthly assaults upon its purity and fitness for drink) so wholesome. That structural and other sanitary improvements have involved a large diminution in the prevalence and mortality of enteric fever in London during, say, the last twenty or thirty years, there can be no doubt; and that enteric fever is, above all diseases, the one in regard to which medical officers of health and sanitary authorities are directly serviceable, is equally beyond dispute. The disease will never, probably, be wholly eradicated; but it is one that can be kept in abeyance by careful attention to sanitary conditions: it is one in regard to the origin and diffusion of which, the quality of the water drunk, its source, and method of storage, and the condition of the drains and water-closets, play a most important part. And it is a disease, too, which, when it breaks out in any locality, is in most cases the consequence of some sanitary default which, though often difficult of discovery, admits of remedy or removal.

THE *Kentucky Magazine* has among the entertaining papers of its first number one entitled "How I Enjoyed the Small-pox."