

as a rule are spending as much money in improvements affecting the general health of the city as in the North.

*Fourth.*—The great variation in conditions in cities in the same section of the country and in close proximity. As far as observations indicated it is impossible to select one particular section of the country and show that, from a sanitary standpoint, it is as a whole materially superior to another section in what is being done by the various municipalities and state authorities in the line of sanitary work. Of course, there are sections of the country where natural conditions bearing upon health are very favorable and other sections where such conditions are very unfavorable; but as far as efforts of city authorities to put the cities in the best possible sanitary condition is concerned, one can find some of the best and some of the worst instances in the South, in the North, in the East, and in the West. It was surprising to find on the South Atlantic coast a city which in the efficiency of its board of health and in its maintenance of generally healthy conditions by adoption of the very best modern methods, stands about at the top of all of the places visited—while in the same section of the country, not far from this city, was another place which, although greatly favored by nature, as far as what the city authorities had done stood near the bottom, and the most unfortunate fact was that the citizens had no conception of the real situation. It was surprising to find on the Mississippi River one city in most excellent sanitary condition, but a few hundred miles north another city whose inhabitants would resent any opinion that they are not among the most intelligent and progressive—and yet this latter place, on account of its absolutely inexcusable conditions, is down near the foot of the list.

*Fifth.*—The fact that the citizens and officials in general in each city, as a rule, were under the impression that, as compared with other cities, their general sanitary condition is favorable. This was apt to be the case, possibly a little more so, in a city where conditions were unusually good. There seemed to be very little exact knowledge among the officials and particularly among the citizens of any city in regard to its relative sanitary situation, and

exact, reliable information on this point in the way of comparative statistics was difficult to obtain. It is generally possible to obtain full and exact information in regard to how much money each city has spent in its different departments and for what purpose, but to obtain information in regard to the results secured by these expenditures is a very different matter.

On account of this great variation in the sanitary condition of the cities and the general lack of information in each city in regard to its real situation as compared with the situation of other cities, if each city government were to appoint a competent committee to visit the city known to have the best sewage system, the best method of disposing of garbage, the best ordinances for inspection of milk, meats and perishable provisions, the best department of bacteriology and any other city noted for special thoroughness and efficiency in any particular line of sanitary work, the result would be the acquirement of an immense amount of valuable and accurate information in regard to how work of this kind ought to be done, and would enable the officials in each city to see wherein it is particularly efficient and wherein it is particularly inefficient, and would undoubtedly lead to many important improvements. There is nothing that will quicker rouse a city to proper action than being brought to a realization of the fact that a rival city is doing things so much better.

Coming now to a more detailed consideration of the principal points investigated, it was found that as a rule most of the cities visited had a fairly good supply of city water. In only a very few cases was there reason to think it was bad, and in many cases it was most excellent. In probably a dozen of the cities visited new water systems had been constructed within the last ten years, with an elaborate and upon the whole very satisfactory system of filtration—usually accompanied by sedimentation and purification by alum, lime or some other chemical method; and in nearly every one of these cases these cities ten years ago were taking impure water direct from some large, unprotected river and drinking it just as it came from the river. The decrease in the amount of sickness and number of deaths from typhoid