

that this Board was established on a permanent basis. Thenceforth the evolution of public health work in Mexico has been continuously directed by our confrere, Dr. Liceaga, whose labors during a quarter of a century for his country and for our science entitle him to a first place amongst the sanitarians of this continent, and, indeed, of the world. In no country that I am aware of does there exist to-day a more complete sanitary organization, or one in which the legislative, administrative and scientific functions are better co-ordinated or more efficiently carried out. As the St. Lawrence gateway was that through which cholera was first brought to this continent in 1832, so to the provinces of Canada belongs the honor of very early general health legislation. In 1833 the Legislature of the Province of Upper Canada passed an Act entitled, "An Act to establish Boards of Health and to guard against the introduction of malignant, contagious and infectious diseases in this Province, and for the formation of local Boards of Health"; but as the emergency passed, so the central health authority was discontinued, and not till 1882 was the first Provincial Board of Health, with permanent officers, established in Canada. In England the year 1875 marked the consolidation of public health laws and their extension to the formation of rural sanitary areas and the bringing of the country districts under the same legislation which had applied hitherto to towns. While it has seemed well to confine this history of sanitary progress during the century to those countries of Europe where its first victories were won, yet it must not be forgotten that the needs of the population of the cities of this rapidly developing continent were not forgotten, though, as appears from Dr. Bowditch's paper in 1876, only in eight of forty-eight states had state legislation dealt seriously with public health matters. Since then, as illustrated in Dr. Abbott's admirable summary of public health progress in the United States during the century, what a change is apparent! To-day in this association we find representatives of state organizations from almost every state and province from the Tropics to the Arctic Circle. The three national governments—the United States, Mexico and Canada—lend their dignity to our councils through their official representatives; and what may be termed a system of continental health observatories are reporting weekly the epidemiological conditions which affect 90,000,000 people. National quarantine services co-operate with state boards in protecting seaboard of 5,000 miles in extent against foreign invasion of disease, and many thousands of local Boards of Health are constantly engaged in the routine task of improving local sanitary conditions and suppressing outbreaks of those communicable diseases which formerly spread uncontrolled as epidemics. Thousands of cities, towns and villages, by public waterworks, have caused typhoid fever to become one of the least prevalent diseases, while cholera and yellow fever are rapidly becoming only