

mencement, the first year, and it was thought after a show of good work the appropriation would probably be doubled the next year, as in the case of the Ontario Board of Health.

Permit me to add: that, besides the Medical Members of the House, and the members appointed by Government, the chairmen of all Provincial Boards of Health, and perhaps in Provinces with no Provincial Board, the chairman of the board of the principal city, might well be *ex officio* members of the Sanitary Committee. This would make this committee large, but it need meet in full only once a year, and at Ottawa; sub, or special committees meeting as required.

In conclusion, I would state that a sort of sub-department of health, of that kind submitted in the plan, would, it is thought, be more in accord with our system of Government—more of a responsible body, than a Dominion Board, as Boards are ordinarily constituted.

By giving the above an insertion you will oblige,

Yours, truly,  
EDWARD PLAYTER.

Ottawa, }  
1st May, 1884. }

#### NOTES FROM THE GERMAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.—FRERICHS' FESTIVAL, ETC.

BERLIN.

By a happy coincidence the festival in honour of Frerichs and the Congress of German physicians took place at the same time in Berlin, and brought together the most celebrated clinicists of the country. There were present: Liebermeister, Nothnagel, Gerhardt, Mosler, Baumler, Quincke, Ziemssen, Leube, Jürgensen, Rühle, Huebner, and many others whose names are familiar to us. The local profession was fully represented. The Congress opened on Sunday evening, the 20th, with a social gathering in the Kaiserhof Hotel, and on Monday at 10 a.m. Prof. Frerichs, the President, opened the session with a brief sketch of the work which had been planned.

The discussion on *Pneumonia* occupied the entire morning, and attracted a great deal of interest from the "coccus" with which the disease has recently been endowed. Prof. Jürgensen opened the debate

and remarked that this most thoroughly studied disease had now to be reinvestigated from a new standpoint since the discovery of the specific germ by Friedlander. It was a general affection, arising through infection with a special poison, the effects of which were manifested chiefly in the lungs. The fact that in at least twenty per cent. of the cases the disease arose from cold did not render this view any less tenable. Direct transmission from one person to another was possible, and he referred to a number of instances in which the contagiousness appeared evident. The dependence of the disease on meteorological conditions could be explained by the influence of these conditions on the growth of the micrococcus. The disease often hung about certain localities and dwellings like typhoid. He claimed that at Amberg the coccus had been discovered in the filling below the floor, had been cultivated, and produced the disease in an animal when inoculated with it (!) Flint, in six years, had been able to trace in two-thirds of the patients a direct or indirect connection with other cases. He referred to the affection of other organs than the lungs, in cases of pneumonia, the kidneys, the brain, the serous membranes, just as in typhoid and other specific fevers.

Dr. A. Fraenkel then gave a detailed account of the micrococcus of pneumonia, discovered by Friedlander. He concluded as follows: The coccus of pneumonia can be isolated by cultivation, and is directly transmissible to animals. The effects are somewhat variable; some of the inoculated rabbits resist the disease, others die with a severe general affection and localized regions of disease in pleura, pericardium and lungs. The encapsuled form (which was thought to be characteristic) of the coccus is not peculiar to it, but is met with in other varieties.

Dr. Friedlander then gave an account of recent experiments with blood drawn by cupping glasses from pneumonia cases. Five of the six cultures remained sterile, but the sixth was successful, and with the micrococci mice and rabbits were inoculated. The former all died with pneumonia and pleurisy, the latter remained healthy.

The discussion which followed did not bring out any new points. There was a general feeling of hesitancy about accepting the coccus as the fully established *materies*