

trouble she complained of, and which she has suffered ever since the wound healed, is, that whenever she swallows any liquid, unless she does so very slowly and with the greatest care, it enters the glottis and causes strangling and coughing to such a degree as to render drinking a very undesirable task. Solid matter gives her no trouble in swallowing it.

The throat is now very open and the isthmus roomy; no sign of tonsils to be seen, and the mucous membrane presents a health appearance.

In former times it was once believed that excision of the tonsils in the male was sometimes followed by atrophy of the testes; and it has also

been taught that excessive mental depression with a tendency to suicide, has followed their removal; but the difficulty to which I refer is not noticed by any author whom I have been able to consult. I have an opinion why this trouble has followed on the absence of both tonsils, but I would like to learn more of the matter from some of your scientific readers. I am inclined to think that this difficulty of swallowing fluids, is not a mere coincidence, but in some way or other dependent upon the absence of the tonsils. Yours very truly,

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Kingston, Nov. 22, 1887.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

### American Public Health Association.

The fifteenth annual meeting of this association has, like those of past years, been a great success, and apart from its regular work has been of more than ordinary interest, meeting as it did in a city which ten years ago was swept with the greatest plagues of modern American history. Memphis, as referred to in various addresses, owes to the A. P. H. A. a debt of gratitude greater than does any other place, and from the many acts of hospitality and courtesy extended to the association, we can only say that the city remembers her benefactors. The receptions were unique, their exuberance of hospitality being signalized by a reception and ball on Wednesday evening at which various grave and worthy seniors distinguished themselves.

The president, G. M. Sternburg, M.D., U.S.A., called the meeting to order Tuesday, Nov. 8th, and the roll for new members was opened. Various papers were read and discussed during the day sessions, one being by Dr. Hunt, of New Jersey, on "The Origin of Certain Diseases," in which he drew attention to the changes brought about by evolution, fixing the type of disease, and to the hybridization in disease. His remarks regarding individual prophylaxis by antidotal medicinal agents were severely criticized by various eminent sanitarians.

J. S. Billings, M.D., U.S.A., read a paper on "Vital Statistics," as applicable to the needs of Health Departments of cities and was followed by

the report of the committee on disinfectants, a most voluminous document. The report which was ordered to be published in full, dwelt mostly with the limiting power of heat on pathogenic organisms. The general conclusions were that 100 C is fatal, and with several a number of degrees less, to all organisms without spores and all spores even, tested are destroyed at 100 C maintained for a few minutes.

The President's address, as might have been expected, was an admirable effort. After referring to the good offices of the association in aiding Memphis during the yellow-fever plague and complimenting the city on its advance in sanitary matters, it dealt with the question of the necessity for a Central Health Board. He urged it on the broad grounds of public necessity and the needs of preventive medicine.

Further, in pointing out as the case of the yellow-fever, how epidemics are often blessings, he accentuated the need of not yielding to a state of inaction and false security, because for several years our foes have been kept at bay.

Regarding the results of the International Sanitary Conference at Rome in 1885, he pointed out that there are strong grounds for local sanitation, based on the argument of the British sanitary authorities, that cleanliness at home is the best preventative against epidemic diseases. He illustrated the hardships of old-time quarantine methods by stating his experience in journeying from Brazil to New York, where passengers were practically shut out from West Indian islands be-