

hides and rags, then certainly better methods of sanitation which are applicable to all kinds of business interests throughout our State, must be of very considerable importance to the people of this State. Because whenever a prominent communicable disease, such a diphtheria or scarlet fever, breaks out in a place, business interests are certain to suffer; and in spite of, and perhaps because of attempts to suppress the knowledge of the outbreak of a communicable disease, the disease frequently spreads and finally injures the business of a place far more than it would have done had the case been promptly reported to a board of health, whose known efficiency would be a guarantee that the disease would be at once suppressed.

RELATION OF SCHOOLS TO PUBLIC SANITATION.

Business interests in relation to this subject are great, but educational interests are probably greater, at least to the rising generation which is soon to displace us. Under present imperfect methods there seems to be no escape from one of two evils—either the schools continue and spread scarlet fever, diphtheria and other communicable diseases throughout cities and throughout the State, as they are now spreading diphtheria; or the schools are closed, and though the public health, which is of the greatest consequence, is furthered thereby, the whole educational work is for the time broken up. What is worse, this breaking-up process must come still more frequently as time goes on, unless some improved methods are adopted; because modes of intercommunication are becoming more complex. Under present methods the schools are not closed promptly on the outbreak of a communicable disease, but only after the disease is quite general, and as the germs of these diseases remain active for quite a long time, whenever the schools open, at least in the autumn, there is likely to be some pupil prepared to communicate one or more of the infectious diseases.

For the best interest of the schools and for public health, we need an entirely different sort of work from what we now have, a much more thorough, systematic, continuous and rational support of our present laws, which seem to be a long way in advance of the knowledge or practice of the people. Suppose that, instead of suffering as we do, a very considerable proportion of the children sent to school to die or suffer through life from the results of disease contracted in school, or instead of breaking up the schools every year