

cian of the Port of Hanfax, and Dr. M. A. Curry of Halifax, who were spending some time in London during the Session of the Congress.

DIPHTHERIA.

This section next took up the question of diphtheria, and I regret to say that among the papers read, those which snowed the widest knowledge of the disease came from this side of the Atlantic where this disease has prevailed since about 1858 to a greater extent than in Europe. The following papers were read :—

“ Sur les modes de contagion de la Diphtherite.”

Dr. Schrevels, of Tournai.

Diphtheria in Minnesota.

Dr. Hewitt, of Minnesota.

Diphtheria in Massachusetts from 1871 to 1888.

Dr. Abbott, of Boston, U. S. A.

“ The relationship between the occurrence of Diphtheria and the movement of the sub-soil Water.”

Mr. M. A. Adams, F. R. C. S., of Maidstone.

“ Memoire sur la Diphtherite au Havre.”

Dr. Gibert, of Havre.

“ The difference of susceptibility to Diphtheria between old and new residents.”

Mr. Charles E. Paget, of Salford.

The discussion was taken part in by Dr. Edw. Seaton, of London ; Dr. Bergeron, of Paris ; Dr. Felix, of Bucharest ; Dr. D'Espine, of Geneva ; Professor Hubert, of Louvain ; and others.

There was little brought out in the discussion that is not already well-known to our medical men and boards of health. In Nova Scotia diphtheria has been by far the most prevalent and most fatal of the germ diseases, consequently it has received close attention and careful study from our practitioners. It is a fact with which those interested in the execution of our health laws are well acquainted that isolation and disinfection, if carried out effectively, will in a short time rid a community of this dread disease, or at least will so speedily lessen the number and malignancy of the cases as to justify the most radical measures on the part of the health authorities in carrying out these principles. This was proved in our own city during the prevalence of a severe type of diphtheria in 1889-90. The disease increased in regard to the number and severity of the cases until inspection with isolation and disinfection were thoroughly carried out, even to the extent of placing a guard upon the door of each infected house. In a short time under this management the virulence of the disease quickly lessened.

As this is a subject of great importance to us, a few extracts from papers presented may be an advantage.

Dr. Bergeron said, “ Indeed, if I did not trust in future hygienic developments, and the good results to be obtained from such meetings as these, I should be horrified at the spread of the disease during the past few years. I have taken these five large centres of population as examples, but a cursory glance over all the sanitary statistics of France and Algeria shows the disease to be greatly on the increase,