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***Health Demands Sewers and Schools***

***Commissioner Bosley Asks Also for an Infectious Disease Hospital—Decrease in Deaths That Are Due to Diphtheria—Ravages of Tuberculosis Among Children***

In the annual report of Health Commissioner James Bosley, presented to Mayor Hayes yesterday, a score of pages are devoted to a vigorous argument in favor of a complete sewerage system and an infectious disease hospital.

“There is an ill-founded belief in the minds of the public,” says Dr. Bosley, “that the presence of an infectious disease hospital in a community is a menace to the public health. As a matter of fact, statistics prove that the safest place during an epidemic is in an infectious disease hospital. In Boston the municipal hospital is located in one of the best residential portions of the city, and I have it from the superintendent that there is less infectious disease within a radius of a quarter of a mile of this hospital than in any other section of the city.”

Dr. Bosley also pays his respects to the public schools.

“Their condition,” he says, “is such that the spread of tuberculosis and other infectious disease is greatly facilitated. An examination of the air in the schoolrooms has shown an abnormal number of bacteria. These conditions undoubtedly increase the number of cases of infectious diseases, such as scarlet fever and diphtheria, and worse still, they undermine the constitution of the children, leaving them in a fit condition to become easy victims of tuberculosis. It is now recognized that tuberculosis is one of the preventable diseases.

“It is gratifying to note that a reduction has been made in the percentage of deaths from diphtheria. In 1899, in the treatment of 311 cases, the percentage of mortality was 10.61. In 1900 the mortality was only 8.8 percent, although 600 cases of diphtheria were injected with department anti-toxin. In 340 cases the diagnosis of diphtheria was confirmed by cultures, and in these cases the mortality was only 7.05 percent. This is also an improvement over last year, when, in 210 cases confirmed by cultures, the mortality was 9 percent. I believe the improvement to be due to the use, by physicians, of diphtheria anti-toxin and careful fumigation of infected premises.”

Dr. Bosley says that the diphtheria mortality, before anti-toxin was used at all, was about 50 percent.

The commissioner recommends that suitable legislation be adopted for the removal, without delay, of all cow stables within the city limits.

“Cows kept in the limited quarters that may be obtained in a large city like Baltimore,” he says, “are subjected to unsanitary surroundings and deprived of the exercise necessary for the production of healthful milk. This is large consumed by small children, and accounts for much of the intestinal troubles among them.”

The statistical portions of the report have been published in the Herald.

