

### Bellefonte, Pa., April 1, 1910.

### HEALTH FORCES DEFEAT DEATH.

Three Million Dollars Spent In Conservation of Public Health Shows a Saving of Twenty-Three Million Dollars to the Commonwealth - Diph. theria, Typhoid and Tuberculosis Give Way Before the Steady Advance of State's Health Officers.

The precious lives of thousands of little children have been spared because the state in its wise beneficence has furnished diphtheria antitoxin to the

Typhoid fever is killing 2500 less people per year in Pennsyl-vania than it did four years ago. Tuberculosis now claims 1000

lives less a year in this state. Education and co-operation of the people in health matters, backed by vigorous support of the public press, is helping Commissioner Dixon to win out in war against disease. Industries seek states where

health records show low death rate

In the last five years the state of Pennsylvania has been engaged in conservation work of an extremely important and fundamental kind. With President Roosevelt it believes that the preservation of the people's natural resources should begin with the preservation of the people themselves. The public cannot conscientiously permit the wasteful sacrifice of its forests and its other forms of natural wealth, but even less conscientiously can it permit the wantom sacrifice of its children's lives.

In maintaining a fully equipped state health department and engaging on a large scale in this great warfare against disease, Pennsylvania has taken a foremost stand for real modern civilization. The creation of governmental agencies for the preservation of the public health marks a new conception of governmental responsibility. The work thus far marks only the beginning-merely suggests the good which this department, under the direction of Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, the commissioner, has in view.

In the last thirty years the attitude of the public towards ill health has :adically changed. Until the researches of that resourceful genius, Louis Pasteur, disclosed the real cause of contagious diseases, the average man's conception was practically that which had prevailed in the middle ages. The infections were merely ons of the inscrutable

### but as an example to the nation an1 the free distribution of anti-toxin, the world. Does It Pay.

## Naturally the people are interested

to learn precisely how the large sums the state is investing annually in good health is being spent; what are its dividends, as measured in the actual saving of human lives? Is Pennsylvania a richer, a more healthy cormonwealth now than it was four years ago". Is the average citizen less like. ly to acquire a mortal disease-less likely to die if he does acquire one? In exchange for its generous appropriations Pennsylvania has received, first of all, a considerable reduction in its death rate. Not so many people die here now as died in 1906, the yea: when the new department began its anti-toxin, the greater his chances of

men, women and children now livin :

and presumably in good health and

spirits, would have rendered their

words these matter of fact statistics.

when interpreted in their real rela-

Human Lives as State Assets.

Saving the Little Ones.

For the last ten years the practical

That large numbers of unprotected

of 13,907 lives.

recovery. These facts should emphaorganized work. The citizens of size the pressing need, in all cases Pennsylvania, especially its little children. stand a better chance than they not only of anti-toxin treatment, but formerly did of reaching mature life of this treatment at the earliest possible time. The department has also and a green old age. Mortality stathoroughly tested the powers of antitistics do not commonly furnish extoxin as an immunizing agent. Diphciting reading, but, when considered theria, as every one knows, is one of from this point of view, they make the most virulently contagious disan emphatic personal appeal. Thus. eases. It travels like lightning from in 1906 and 1907, the death rate in the sick to the well. In the crowded Pennsylvania per thousand of population was 16.5; in 1908, it had dropped homes of the poor, many of them ideal culture tubes for the growth of the 10 15.7, and in 1909 to 15.3. At f. st microbes, its virulence is especially glance this may not seem a remarkmarked. The department in three able diminution, but in a state with a years has immunized with anti-toxin population of more than 7,000,000 even 14,527 persons, nearly all children. a fractional decrease is a substantial who had been exposed to the disease gain. This appears when one figures Of these only 251 acquired it-a little precisely what this slight numerica more than one per cent. The State drop means in the actual saving of human lives. Had the death rate of Department of Health's free distribu-1906 and 1907 prevailed in 1908, pretion of antitoxin to the poor, therecisely 5519 more people would have fore, has saved over 8000 lives at an died than actually succumbed. Had average cost of seven dollars each and this same rate applied in 1909, instead prevented contagion in several thouof the decreased percentage recorded sands of cases at on average cost of two dollars.

### Battle Against Tuberculosis.

tact, only 1725 died. Nearly all those

who died were children who did not

receive the anti-toxin until the late

stages of the disease. The detailed

statistics of the department show that

the earlier the sick child receives the

In its attitude towards the great final tribute to nature. In other problem of tuberculosis, the state government also shows this keen sense of responsibility for the safety of the people. The department of health retion to the welfare and happiness o! the state, mean the saving to the stat. gards all the tuberculosis poor as in a large sense the wards of the state. Its efforts, in the first place, are to prevent them from falling victims to this This fact has an immense persona! insidious disease, and in the second. meening for all people of the stateto assist materially in curing those among these rescued lives might have who have become infected.

been your own, your wife's, you? The death rate from tuberculosis in child's; but they also have a value this state has fallen from 134 to 120 which is measurable in dollars and per one thousand of population in four years. This means a saving of cents. The political economists now recognize that the most valuable kind 1060 lives annually.

of wealth is the human life-that hu-In the matter of tuberculosis, however, the death rate tells only a small man labor is worth at least five times that of all other forms of capital. part of the story. Any work in im-Even the newly landed immigrant, ac- proving conditions must be fundacording to these investigators, has a mental, and it will necessarily take per capita value of \$875; that is. he many years before extensive results adds just that much to the nation's are obtained. What the department capital. Professor Irving Fisher. of has done has been to lay the founda-Yale, one of the foremost American tion of comprehensive attack. From economists, has painstakingly figured its laboratory investigations of the the financial value to the state of tubercle bacillus to its especially of literature. every citizen at particular ages. A new-born infant, says Professor Fish-pect of the disease that it does not er. is actually worth \$90, while a five- study and combat. It aims to enter year-old child is worth \$950. From at every stage into the life of the tu this point on his value rapidly in berculous poor. To many citizens the creases; at ten, could he be sold at state government is more or less of ness. auction, his market value would be at an indefinite idea; they seldom come Rigeteousness and competency in public least \$2000; at twenty it would be into contact with it as a living, acting office \$4000, and at thirty. \$4100. From this entity; if you are once stricken with point the average human being begins tuberculosis, however, especially if you to lose value, in proportion to his de- are poor, the commonwealth of Penncreasing productivity, until at fifty. sylvania becomes physically manifest Professor Fisher gives him a value of in your daily lives. In the medical inonly \$700. This same authority places spection, in the physician and in the the worth of the average life lost by nurses the state ceases to be an ecopreventable diseases at \$1700. Taking nomic abstraction and becomes a kind. this as a basis the decreased death helping, fostering personality. rate in Pennsylvania for the last two years represents a money saving of

or at work-the latter particularly for the purpose of protecting his intimates numbering 650. Whenever any poor and associates from infection. This inmay's child falls ill with diphtheria, his physician, by making out a proper formation she records for the use of the physician, and the department. application, can secure free all the She follows up this preliminary talk anti-toxin he needs to effect a cure. by an inspection at the patient's home. Since October, 1905, the Health De-Here her administrations amount to a partment has in this way distributed liberal education in the treatment of 49.443 packages of anti-toxin. It has tuberculosis. She instructs the patient treated 19,929 sick people, mostly chilas to the proper handling of himselffren, who, but for the state's interhow he must dress, how he must eat vention, would have been neglected. In and sleep, and tells him of the well the old days about 10,000 of these chilknown ways of building up the natdren would have died; as a matter of

[Continued on page 7.]

### Medical.

## This is Certain. The proof that Bellefonte readers can What could furnish stronger evidence of ncy of any remedy than the test housands of people testify that dney Pills cure permanently-morsement should prove unthe merit of this rep friends and neighbor

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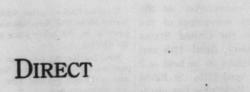
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wiscom of Providence. expressions of divine wrath: punishments for sinful human kind. Even the scientist regarded them as fundamental facts of nature. like death itself, which everyone must uncomplainingly accept. Pasteur. however, in a few masterly experiments. brushed aside all this ignorance and superstition. He showed that all contagious diseases had a clearly defined and obvious origin. They were not mysterious visitations, without tangible cause and insusceptible to tangible control. They were caused by an infinitely large universe of infinitely small forms of vegetable and animal life. He demonstrated that the connection between these malevolent micro-organisms and the ensuing disease was as close as that between surlight and heat. And he also immediately drew the inevitable conclusion. If the world were once rid of these organisms, he declared, it would be rid of contagious diseases. "It is now within the power of the world"-such was the deduction years. which he drew from his experiments, "to rid itself of all contagious diseases.'

#### Setting Pace in Health Work.

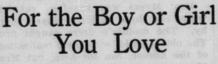
This was the goal at which Pasteur aimed; that has been the goal at which all movements for improving the people's health have necessarily aimed since. And this was the ultimate ambition which led, five years ago, to the organization of the Pennsylvania State Department of Health. sylvania is doing now. This conserva a Pennsylvania in which there shall tive old commonwealth has reached be no young men and women lanthat stage of paternalism where the guishing away with tuberculosis; a government will not sit quietly by Pernsylvania in which no children and watch a little child choke to death shall die of diphtheria; a Pennsylvawith diphtheria when the expenditure. nia in which there shall be no tyof a few dollars from the public treasphoid, nc scarlet fever, no smallpox, ury will relieve its sufferings and save no meningitis, no dysentery, no ma-laria-this is the kind of Pennsylvania its life. which the State Department of Health hopes ultimately to create. It does not expect to reach this goal in a remedy for diphtheria has been availyear, or ten years, perhaps not in a able for the children of prosperous single generation, but this is the ideal households, but it has not been availthat it has constantly in mind. It re- able for the poor. Since Von Behring's cognizes the fact that, so long as any immortal discovery that the blood of these diseases exist, their preva- serum of a horse which has recovered lence is a distinct reproach to the from diphtheria possessed wonderful state. It is a reproach simply be curative properties, and when introcause the method eliminating them is duced into the human organism, would known. The old theory of government usually destroy the disease, this foras a power which protects its citi- mer scourge of childhood has lost zens only from foreign foes and native nearly all its terrors. In the old days marauders is giving way to new stan- diphtheria destroyed nearly one-half dards of civilization. The greatest of all the children it assailed. It would enemies to the state are those which do the same today among the poor in Pennsylvania were it not for the antiare unseen, and the first duty of as enlightened commonwealth is to pro toxin which the state provides free. tect its people against them. Other states are gradually rising to this new children have died most shocking conception, but Pennsylvania now deaths in the past for the sole reason clearly heads them all, for in no that their parents were too poor to other state is the battle against the afford them anti-toxin, is a melancholy common enemy being waged on so reflection, but these things will not large a scale as here. The experiment, therefore, is not only of ex-treme importance to Pennsylvanians, The Dispensaries.

\$22.641.900. The state, in other words, If you are stricken down and cannot is just that much richer-has just that afford proper medical attendance. much more available capital. For its there is always near at hand a .ree tuactual expenditure to date of \$3,000,berculosis dispensary, established for precisely cases of this kind. There are 000. including a large portion for permanent improvements, it has taken in more than \$23,000,000. The earnings state who are still able to be about of the new Department of Health, conand to follow the daily routine, persidered purely from the commercial haps even to support their families. standpoint, thus represent dividends The 114 tuberculosis dispensaries are of more than 766 per cent in four of especial assistance to this class. The dispensary physicians have treat-What is the value placed by the aved 21,227 patients and actually cured erage citizen upon his children's lives 712. while the condition of 2649 has so -not the financial value estimated by greatly improved that the arrest of the unemotional economist, but the the disease is almost assured. Here worth in affection, good citizenship and in all that holds the social organithe sick man or woman is received by a professional nurse, who makes a zation together? Is it good business complete first-hand investigation of policy to save the lives of children at the case. By questioning the patient \$7 apiece? Is it paternalistic and so- she learns all the details of his family cialistic to protect them against danhistory, his occupation, his financial gerous infections at the rate of \$2 per resources, his surroundings, at home head? That is what the state of Penn-

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