

*Health Department,
of the City of New York;
President's Office.*

*Charles F. Wilson,
President & Commissioner.*

New York,

February 5, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:-

Referring to our conversation yesterday in respect to the disposition of the Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) contributed by the Siegel-Cooper Company for the relief of the poor in this city, I respectfully suggest that Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250) be sent to the Charity Organization Society, No. 105 East Twenty-second Street, of which Robert W. De Forrest is President and J. Pierpont Morgan Treasurer, and Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250) to the United Hebrew Charities Association, No. 128 Second Avenue, of which Henry Rice is President. Among the many charitable organizations in this city which deserve public support I know of none that are more admirably and carefully managed than the above named.

Very respectfully,

Charles F. Wilson
President.

State Board of Health.

ALBANY, N. Y., *March* 18, 1896.

The following circular proposed by the Conference Committee of the State Board of Health, and the Board of Health of the City of New York has been accepted by this Board for publication and distribution throughout the State:

SOME FACTS REGARDING TUBERCULOSIS.

Especially of Dairy Cattle, and Suggestions as to the Means for its Suppression.

The disease known as tuberculosis, and, when affecting the lungs, as pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption, is very common in human beings and in certain domestic animals, especially cattle. More than one-seventh of all deaths occurring in human beings throughout the civilized world is caused by tuberculosis, and it is estimated that more than one-fourth of all deaths occurring during adult life is due to it, and that nearly one-half of the entire population at some time in life acquire it. It attacks people in all conditions of life, of all ages and occupations, in the country as well as in the city. The disease is essentially the same in animals and in man, and has the same cause. Among herds of high bred cattle not infrequently more than fifty per cent are found to be suffering from this disease.

It has been proven beyond a doubt that a living germ, called the tubercle bacillus, is the cause and the only cause of tuberculosis. It does not seem necessary to state the facts upon which this assertion is based, for the observations made by Robert Koch in 1882 have been confirmed so often and so completely that it now constitutes one of the most clearly demonstrated facts in medicine.

Tuberculosis may affect any organ of the body, but most frequently first attacks the lungs. When the living germs find their way into the

body, if favorable conditions for their growth exist, they multiply wherever they may lodge and produce small new growths, or nodules (tubercles), which tend to soften. In animals, in addition to the tubercles, large white hard masses or soft cheesy material containing gritty particles may be produced. The discharges from the softened tubercles or tubercular masses, containing the living germs in enormous numbers, are thrown off from the body in various ways. When once the disease becomes established, it as a rule extends, and the tubercle bacilli multiply and produce a poison which is absorbed by the body. The poison causes fever attended with wasting and great feebleness, and ultimately the disease ends in death. On the other hand, recovery from the disease may occur, or it may exist for long periods of time, and in cattle often extends widely and produces grave changes in the body without rendering the victim apparently very sick or affecting its milk producing powers. Cattle may be seriously affected with tuberculosis and yet not cough, eat well, be fat and appear healthy, and the most careful physical examination by a skilled veterinarian may fail to reveal the presence and nature of the malady.

The germs which are thrown off in the discharges from diseased portions of the body do not grow outside the living human or animal body, except under artificial conditions, although they may retain their vitality and virulence for long periods of time, even when thoroughly dried. As it has been definitely proven that tuberculosis can only result from the reception of these germs into the body and their multiplication there, it follows from what has just been said that when the disease is acquired it must be through the reception into the body of the living germs that have come more or less directly from some other human being or animal affected with the disease. In man, these germs are cast off in enormous numbers in the expectoration and in the evacuations from the bowels. In cattle also, whether there be cough or not, the slobber or spittle or discharge from the nose and the discharges from the bowels contain these germs when the lungs or the intestines are diseased. These discharges fall upon the ground or mangers, or floors or fences, and are often either licked up by other animals or taken with their food, or dry and become pulverized and are then breathed into the lungs in the form of dust. As the disease is communicable it will be readily seen that the presence of one tubercular animal in a herd may ultimately cause the disease in many others with which it comes in contact.

It has also been fully established that the milk of cows which are tuberculous, whether the udder is affected or not, may contain these living and virulent tubercle bacilli, and that the milk from such a tuberculous cow, no matter how healthy the animal may appear, may cause the disease in human beings who use it. It makes no difference how far such milk may be carried or how much it may be mixed with milk from healthy cows, it is always dangerous and its distribution for human consumption, if done knowingly, is criminal. Among stall-fed dairy cows, from five to fifty per cent are sometimes found to be affected with the disease. Tuberculous animals are also frequently killed for food. Their flesh sometimes contain the germs, and if not thoroughly cooked is capable of transmitting the disease. Boiling the milk and thoroughly cooking the meat destroys the germs.

It thus follows from what has been said that *tuberculosis is a distinctly preventable disease*. It is a well-known fact that members of certain families and certain breeds of cattle are particularly liable to tuberculosis, and this liability may be transmitted to the offspring. In man, so marked and so frequent is this liability, and so frequent is the transmission of the disease in particular families, that the affection has long been considered hereditary. We now know that tuberculosis can only be caused by the entrance of the tubercle bacillus into the body, and that the transmitted liability at most only renders the individual a more easy prey to the germs when they once have gained entrance. We know that the frequency of the disease in such families is in largest part due to the continued exposure to the infectious material which is cast off from the body of those who are diseased, by expectoration or otherwise, and in the absence of intelligent precautions is conveyed to the well in various ways which the intimacy of household life fosters. Similar conditions favor the dissemination of the infectious material among cattle herded and housed together.

If then, tuberculosis is not inherited, the question of prevention in human beings resolves itself into the avoidance of tubercular meat and milk and the destruction of the discharges of diseased persons, and especially of the sputum. In cattle, the only efficient means to prevent its extension to other members of a herd and to human beings is by the prompt destruction of all diseased animals. As to the first means of communication in the human being those measures of prevention alone answer the requirements which embrace official inspections of dairy cows

and of animals slaughtered for food, and the rigid exclusion and destruction of all those found to be tuberculous.

In recent years, since the cause of tuberculosis has been known, sanitary authorities have been devising and urging measures of protection against the spread of the disease among the inhabitants, especially of towns and cities. If man can be protected from tuberculous meat and milk, and the sputum of consumptive individuals can be properly disposed of, or at once destroyed when discharged, the danger of the transmission of the disease from animals to men, and from man to man can be greatly diminished. Measures looking to this end are being put into force all over the world by intelligent sanitary authorities.

While the existence of tuberculosis in cattle has been known for a long time, it is only recently that we have learned how common it is. Even yet its frequency is not sufficiently recognized by farmers and cattle owners, and the great and increasing dangers to which they are subjected by the use of milk and butter from diseased animals, and the great and increasing financial loss to which they are liable from this disease are not generally appreciated. In herds which are supposed to be perfectly healthy, from two to twenty-five per cent may be tuberculous, and in high bred cattle the percentage of diseased animals is oftener greater than this. The consumers of milk in cities are rapidly becoming informed, through the publications of health boards and the investigations of special commissions, of the risks to which they subject themselves, and especially of the risks to which they subject their children and invalids by the use of milk which comes to them from unknown sources, or from cows which often, without the knowledge of their owners, are diseased and which may be giving off these dangerous germs at every milking. Municipal sanitary authorities and milk consumers are beginning seriously to demand a guarantee of protection against this real and growing danger.

This is the standpoint of the municipal health officers and the milk consumers. From the side of the farmers and dairymen, the condition of affairs demands immediate attention for two reasons: *First*. Because they will soon everywhere be required by the consumer to give some guarantee either directly or through sanitary officers that none of the milk which they supply comes from tuberculous cows. *Second*. Because the presence of disease in one or more animals of a herd is a serious menace to the rest and may lead sooner or later to the loss of a large

part of them, while, at the same time, the owners and their families are equally with those who buy their products subject to the danger of tuberculosis from the use of milk and butter from such diseased animals.

Tuberculosis is now so widespread in this State that no owner of cattle can be certain, no matter how well and healthy his animals may appear, that some of them are not already seriously diseased, and constantly infecting healthy animals with which they mingle in the stalls and pastures, or that the members of his own family are not being infected by the use of milk from such animals. As this disease is communicable from animal to animal and from animal to man, every intelligent owner of cattle can understand that it is for his own interest to have all the animals in a herd, which he knows to be tubercular, separated from the rest, and at once killed and destroyed. Destruction is the only proper mode of disposal of such animals, since their continued presence threatens the remainder, and their sale for food or their use for milking is not only dishonorable, but may become criminal.

The difficulty hitherto has been to detect with certainty the presence of tuberculosis in animals in which symptoms of the disease are not marked. No one will willingly incur the loss resulting from the destruction of animals not positively known to be diseased, and until recently it has been impossible in many cases even for experienced veterinarians, after most careful examination, to determine whether tuberculosis was present in certain animals or not. Now, however, this difficulty has been almost entirely removed by the discovery and use of tuberculin. This tuberculin test affords a means of detecting with certainty the existence even of incipient tuberculosis in those cattle which appear perfectly healthy and give no sign of disease.

The substance spoken of (tuberculin) is a brownish fluid, prepared from the germs which cause this disease. The injection of tuberculin beneath the skin of suspected animals will, by the presence or absence of certain symptoms, usually lead the experienced observer to a positive conclusion as to the presence or absence of the disease. This test is not attended by any danger and produces no harmful effects in animals which are not tuberculous. When tuberculin was first employed for this purpose mistakes were not infrequent, but now the certainty is so great that in skilled hands the percentage of error is but a fraction of one per cent. The owners of valuable cattle in many regions, after carefully watching its application, have become firm advocates of its value and safety, and so

great has become the desire in some parts of the country to free the herds from this disease that the demand for its administration has far outrun the facilities for its supply and use. By the use of tuberculin and the destruction of cattle shown by the test to be diseased, it is possible to entirely free dangerously infected herds from tuberculosis, and to keep them free and sound by the admission to these herds of such cattle only as have been proven by the tuberculin test to be sound; provided that after the herds have been tested and freed from diseased animals, the stalls and stables are thoroughly disinfected.

The great loss which the destruction of diseased cattle involves will, of course, be uppermost in the minds of owners, and although the destruction of diseased cattle even at great immediate loss would, in the long run, be true economy, yet this loss must be seriously considered before the work is entered upon. It has been generally recognized that the State should, in some measure at least, compensate the owners for cattle destroyed, since under such conditions as now exist, the fault is not usually with the cattle owner, and the gain in the suppression of tuberculosis is shared by all citizens alike. It would also seem just that the cost of ridding a herd of tuberculosis should be borne by the State only once, but that thereafter, the owner should keep it free by admitting no animals without the proof of soundness which the tuberculin test affords.

If the payment by the State for the tuberculous cattle destroyed be assured, as it can be by an act of the Legislature appropriating a suitable amount for this purpose, a way will be open for the gradual extinction of bovine tuberculosis in the State of New York. If then, the tuberculin test be required for all cattle entering the State, the herds here once freed may be kept free from disease. This means a great and material benefit to dairymen and farmers, to cattle owners and citizens alike of the entire State. It means to all consumers of milk the removal of a serious menace to health and life. It is believed that if the farmers, dairymen and dealers in, and the consumers of milk will take this matter under serious consideration and bring their influence strongly to bear, individually or in association, upon their representatives at Albany, such legislation may be speedily secured as will lead to most beneficent results for all.

It is the purpose of the State Board of Health of New York to urge upon the Legislature such revision of the existing law upon this subject

as shall ensure certainty in the detection of the disease, free of cost to the owners of cattle, and appropriation as will secure for the owner a direct and speedy payment by the State for all cattle destroyed, at a fair and equitable rate. The appropriations in the past have enabled the authorities to commence the work and to secure an efficient organization, but have been far too meagre to attain even an approach to the wide suppression of the disease. There should be an appropriation by the Legislature for the current fiscal year of not less than Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for immediate use.

This matter is brought to the attention of farmers and dairymen and cattle owners in the hope that they will co-operate in the attempt to free this State from a dangerous and costly pest, and thus promote their own private welfare as well as the interests of the public health.

(Signed) DANIEL LEWIS,

Pres. State Board of Health.

A. H. DOTY,

Health Officer, Port of New York.

OWEN CASSIDY,

Commissioner, State Board of Health.

CHARLES G. WILSON,

Pres. Health Department, New York City.

GEORGE B. FOWLER,

Commissioner, Health Dept., New York City.

T. MITCHELL PRUDDEN,

*Director Pathological Laboratory, College of
Physicians and Surgeons, New York City.*

HERMAN M. BIGGS,

*Director Bacteriological Laboratory, Health
Department, New York City.*

DR. BAXTER T. SMELZER,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

*Health Department,
of the City of New York,
President's Office.*

*Charles G. Wilson,
President & Commissioner.*

New York, April 6, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:-

The importance of a pure milk supply in any community cannot be questioned. In this city, cows' milk is the sole food of a large proportion of the infant population and of many adults and invalids as well. The means best adapted to secure an unadulterated and wholesome supply present a problem second perhaps in importance to no other with which this Department has to deal. This problem presents itself under two aspects: first, the prevention of adulteration; and, second, the maintenance of a supply uncontaminated by disease producing organisms and obtained from animals healthy in every respect.

The efforts made to secure the cooperation of local sanitary authorities in districts supplying milk to this city, the inspection of several such districts in connection with the local authorities and the successful establishment of a system of milk permits have all been noted as steps taken towards the improvement of the milk supply from what may be termed a bacte-

Hon. W. L. Strong, April 6, 1897.

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riological standpoint, as distinguished from the adulteration of milk in respect to its normal constituents. These steps have been supplemented in a most important respect by the inauguration of measures for the systematic examination of all milch cattle kept within the city limits with special reference to the detection of animals suffering from tuberculosis. It may be taken as absolutely demonstrated that tuberculosis in cattle is the same disease as found in man; that a large proportion of milch cows are tuberculous, and that milk from such animals frequently causes the disease in those who consume it. The importance of an early diagnosis of the disease in animals suffering from it need, therefore, only be stated to be appreciated, and it is most fortunate that in the proper application of the so-called "tuberculin test" we are provided with a certain and reliable means of making such diagnosis.

On the 31st day of July, an inspection of the milch cows within the limits of this city which furnish a part of the city's milk supply was commenced, its special object being to ascertain whether the cows were afflicted with any disease, and especially whether they were tuberculous. In this inspection, the tuberculin test has been used in each case to ascertain the presence of tuberculosis. The number of cows examined up to the present time with the tuberculin test is 1,511, in 130 different localities, and 252 tuberculous cows have been found and have been killed by and with the consent of the owner. In every case

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the autopsy has confirmed the diagnosis made with the tuberculin test. The importance of this work cannot be questioned.

On March 18, 1896, the enclosed circular proposed by the Conference Committee of the State Board of Health and the Board of Health of the city of New York was published and distributed broadcast throughout the state. In this circular, it was recommended that an appropriation be made by the legislature for the fiscal year 1896 of not less than \$300,000 for immediate use by the State Board of Health in applying the tuberculin test to all milch cattle within the state. No action was taken thereon. It would seem to me, considering the results of the application of the tuberculin test to the milch cattle within this city, that the present session of the legislature ought not to come to an end without making an appropriation of at least \$300,000 to carry on this most important work during the current year. This is a matter which concerns the whole community.

Very respectfully,

Charles M. May
President.

April 6

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*Health Department,
of the City of New York,
President's Office.*

*Charles G. Wilson,
President & Commissioner.*

New York, April 8, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor.

Sir:-

I have the honor to submit a report of the work performed during the week ending April 3, 1897, by the corps of Medical School Inspectors (first week's inspection) in the Primary Departments of the Grammar Schools and the Primary Schools under the supervision of the Board of Education and the parochial schools. The following is a summary of the reports received:-

Boys examined	6,508
Girls examined	<u>6,668</u>
Total	<u>13,176</u>

Of these, 481 were excluded from the schools under the supervision of the Board of Education and 88 from the parochial schools, and sent home to their parents for the following reasons:-

4 were found to be desquamating from measles.

28 were ill with suspicious diphtheria, and from these cultures were taken, the examination of the same resulting in 12 cases of true diphtheria.

2- Hon. William L. Strong, April 8, 1897.

3 had croup.

4 had whooping cough.

19 had mumps..

127 had contagious eye disease.

303 had parasitic diseases of the head.

23 had parasitic diseases of the body.

20 had chickenpox.

24 had different kinds of skin diseases which required treatment

14 cases, which a later diagnosis failed to confirm.

The result of the first week's inspection shows conclusively
the necessity for the inauguration of this work.

Very respectfully,

Wm. L. Strong
President.

*Health Department,
of the City of New York,
President's Office.*

*Charles G. Wilson,
President & Commissioner.*

New York, April 9, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:-

As the death-rate of a city is an important indication of its sanitary condition, I am sure you will be pleased to know that the death-rate of New York during the first three months of the year 1897 is less than for the same period in any year in the history of the city. The deaths reported and the death-rate since 1890 are as follows:-

Year	Deaths reported-Jan.1 to Mch.31.	Death-rate
1891	10,214	24.99
1892	11,458	27.23
1893	11,844	27.35
1894	10,976	24.63
1895	11,728	25.34
1896	10,949	22.98
1897	9,957	20.31

There has also been a decrease in the death-rate from contagious diseases for the same period of this year, the

2- Hon. W. L. Strong, April 9, 1897.

death-rate in 1891 being 2.72, in 1892, 3.05, in 1893 2.75,
in 1894 3.38, in 1895 2.09, in 1896 2.24, in 1897 1.53.

Very respectfully,

Charles L. Wilson
President.

Health Department,
Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Buildings)

New York, May 5, 1897

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of April 29th, enclosing complaint of
D. T. Pierce concerning the alleged unhealthy condition
of vacant lots at the corner of Eighty-fourth Street and
Amsterdam Avenue, for investigation and report, has been
received, and I send herewith a copy of letter this day
addressed to D. T. Pierce, as requested.

Very respectfully,

E. Golderman
Secretary pro tem.

Enclosure.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, May 5, 1897

D. T. Pierce, Esq.,

P. O. Drawer C, Station D,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your communication of April 28th to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to the condition of vacant lots at the north-west corner of Amsterdam Avenue and Eighty-fourth Street, has been referred to this Department to answer. I find the records show that a complaint was made by William McCallum on the 13th of February last, as to the condition of said lots, upon which an Inspector made a report and an order was issued and served upon one Powers, Agent, Columbus Avenue and Eighty-fifth Street, directing that the vacant lots be cleaned and disinfected and all old rags, paper and rubbish be removed; that on the 5th of March said lots were reinspected and nuisance was found not abated; that on the 11th day of March, by direction of the Attorney of this Department, an officer was ordered to get facts for arrest, and he reported that Mr. Freund, of No. 8 Maiden Lane, was the owner of the lots, on whom he served a copy of the order, informing him

2- D. T. Pierce, May 5, 1897.

that the lots would be reinspected in forty-eight hours, and if the work was not begun he would report facts to the Attorney for his action. A reinspection was made on March 16th, and the order found complied with.

Upon the receipt of your complaint of April 28th an inspection of said lots was ordered and on the 30th of April the Inspector reported "that" the surface of lots is filthy with old "rags, paper and rubbish," upon which an order has been issued as follows: "That the surface of the lots be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and all old rags, paper and rubbish removed."

While the order issued February 25th was pending, complaints were received from William P. Gerz, of No. 101 West Eightieth Street, and D. T. Pierce, of No. 205 West Eighty-fourth Street, in respect to the condition of these lots. It is very difficult at times for this Department to find the owners of vacant lots on whom to serve the orders of the Board, and the abatement of nuisances of this character is very much delayed thereby.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) C. Golderman,

Chief Clerk.

Health Department,
Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)
New York, _____ *June 9,* _____ *1897*

B. L. Burrows, Esq.,

Secretary, Office of the Mayor,

City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of June 4th, enclosing petition from J. L. Terry and others in respect to noises caused by building operations in Twenty-second Street, between Broadway and Sixth Avenue, is received, and herewith enclosed please find copy of communication forwarded this day to complainants.

Very respectfully,

C. C. L. L. L.
Chief Clerk.

Enclosure.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, June 9, 1897

Mr. J. L. Terry and others,
5 West Twenty-second Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Your complaint of June 4th to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to unusual noises during the night caused by escaping steam and blowing of steam whistles at No. 2 West Twenty-second Street, was referred to this Department for investigation and report. In reply I beg to inform you that an inspection has been made of the work going on at this place, and the Inspector reports that the noise is caused by the operation of a 50 horse power hoiler day and night, which is used for running a hoisting engine and an air compressing engine. The compressed air is used in the caissons, of which there are sixteen(16), two being operated at a time, the object being to keep the water away from the piers which are being constructed for supporting the columns. On inquiry at the Department of Buildings, I was informed that any stoppage of the work at the present time would cause serious damage, on account of danger from quicksand and water undermining the foundations of adjoining buildings.

Very respect fully,

(Signed) C. Golderman,

Chief Clerk.

Health Department,

*Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)*

New York, _____ June 12, _____ 1897

Benjamin L. Burrows, Esq.,

Secretary, Office of the Mayor,

City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours of the 11th instant,
in respect to the record of marriage of Frederick
Cohn, I enclose a copy of the certificate on file
in this office.

Very respectfully,

E. Goldman
Chief Clerk.

Enclosure.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York,

June 16, 1897

B. L. Burrows, Esq.,

Secretary, Office of the Mayor,

City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of June 15th, enclosing communication of Daniel Cavanaugh, Cranston Print Works, Cranston, Rhode Island, is received. Herewith please find copy of letter this day mailed to the said Cavanaugh, as requested.

Very respectfully,



Chief Clerk.

Enclosure.

Health Department,
Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)
New York, _____

June 16, 1897

Mr. Daniel Cavanaugh,
Cranston Print Works,
Cranston, Rhode Island.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of June 14th to His Honor, the Mayor, has been referred to this Department to answer. Upon the receipt of the prescribed fee search will be made in the records of this Department for the death of Margaret Cavanaugh and, if found, a certified copy of the record will be forwarded. The fee for the search is fifty cents for one year and ten cents for each additional year, and it will be necessary for you to designate the year or years in which you desire the search to be made.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) CasGolderman,

Chief Clerk.

Enclosure.

Health Department,
Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)
New York, _____

July 2,

1897

Benjamin L. Burrows, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find copy of communication
this day mailed to Mary A. O'Brien, of No. 532 West
One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Street, in respect to
premises No. 534 West One Hundred and Twenty-sixth
Street, as requested by you.

Very respectfully,

E. G. Friedman

Secretary pro tem.

Enclosure.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Buildings)

New York, July 2, 1897

Mary A. O'Brien,

532 West 126th Street,

New York City.

Madame:-

Your communication of June 27th to His Honor, the Mayor, has been referred to this Department to answer. In reply, I respectfully inform you that on the 19th day of May, 1897, after a careful inspection of premises No. 534 West One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Street, Inspector Hudson, of this Department, reported as follows:-

"The south-easterly air court is not cemented, graded nor drained, and surface water therefrom flows into the yard and cellar of the adjoining private dwelling. (No. 532), making said cellar damp and offensive.

"The above nuisance is greatly aggravated by the leakage from the defective and displaced slip joint between the zinc and iron portions of the rain leader in the above air court; storm water flows through this defect in large volume into the above mentioned cellar. In addition to this, the house drain or house sewer of No. 534 frequently becomes obstructed, and at such times large quantities of sewage back up through the leaky rain leader joint and flow into the sewer.

"As this defective rain leader was referred (Dec. 17, 1896,) to the Department of Buildings on a previous complaint, without result, and as the conditions now existing have already caused illness in the private dwelling, I believe the order issued should also cover the defective rain leader."

2- M. A. O'Brien, July 2, 1897.

Based on the above report, an order was issued to the effect "that the south-easterly air court be cemented, and so "drained as to discharge all surface water into a properly "trapped, sewer connected drain; that all defects in the south-easterly rain leader be properly repaired, so that said rain "leader shall not leak."

After due reinspection of said premises, the Board, at its last meeting, June 29, 1897, upon the certificate of the Sanitary Superintendent that its present condition was detrimental to life and health, ordered said premises to be vacated, and the Sanitary Superintendent was directed to enforce the same.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) C. Golderman,

Secretary pro tem.

*Health Department,
of the City of New York,
President's Office.*

*Charles G. Wilson,
President & Commissioner.*

New York,

July 2,

1897

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:-

As the death-rate of a city is an important indication of its sanitary condition, I am sure you will be pleased to know that the death-rate of New York in the first six months of the year 1897 is less than for the same period in any former year.

The deaths and the death-rate since 1889 are as follows:-

Year	Estimated Population	Deaths, January to June.	Death-rate
1889	1,566,801	20,559	26.24
1890	1,612,559	20,975	26.01
1891	1,659,654	22,516	27.15
1892	1,708,124	22,973	26.90
1893	1,758,010	23,695	26.95
1894	1,809,353	21,534	23.80
1895	1,879,195	22,374	23.81
1896	1,934,077	21,596	22.33
1897	1,990,562	19,536	19.63

2- Hon. W. L. Strong, July 2, 1897.

There has also been a decrease in the death-rate from contagious diseases for the first half of the year, the death-rate in 1894 being 3.17, in 1895 2.23, in 1896 2.07, and in 1897 1.49.

The remarkable decrease in the number of deaths and the death-rate for the six months ending June 30, 1897, indicates improved sanitary conditions in this city. To such improved conditions the asphaltting of the streets in the tenement-house districts, the cleanliness of the streets, the improved milk supply, the use of sterilized milk, the vacation of rear tenements, the medical inspection of children in the public, parochial and industrial schools, and the activity and vigilance of the officers of this Department in enforcing the measures necessary for the prevention of contagious diseases, have no doubt largely contributed.

Very respectfully,

Chas. Geo. Wilson
President.

H E A L T H D E P A R T M E N T .
Centre, Elm, White and Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

The Division of Medical
School Inspection.

New York, July 10th, 1897.

To the
Sanitary Superintendent.

Sir:-

I have the honor to forward the following report in regard to the work performed by this Division during the quarter ending June 30th, 1897.

On the 16th day of March, 1897, one hundred and forty-nine Medical School Inspectors were appointed, and after attending several lectures relating to the duties which they were to perform, they began the inspection of school children on Monday, March 31st, 1897.

They were detailed so that the children in the primary departments of ninety-three grammar schools, in forty-four primary, and fifty-five parochial schools, could be examined at the beginning of each school session. In some cases, one Inspector attended to one school, in others, two schools. In a few instances, two Inspectors were detailed to a school, and occasionally two Inspectors examined the children of three schools.

The detailing of the Inspectors depended upon the daily average attendance of the schools, and the distance between the schools.

The work was carried on in this way during the month of April. On May 3rd, 1897, six grammar and five primary schools in the upper and annexed portions of the city were added to the list for inspection, and also thirty-one industrial schools of the city, eleven being under the charge of the American Female Guardian Society, and twenty under the care of the Children's Aid Society. Three parochial schools, in which there were no primary classes, were taken from the list. The same number of Inspectors attended to this

new list of schools, each Inspector being detailed to from one to three schools (according to the attendance) the schools, when more than one was visited by an Inspector, being within short walking distance from each other.

The Inspectors visited eleven of the smaller schools in the upper and annexed portions of the city, from one to three times a week; and, grammar school No. 102 on City Island, and primary school No. 48, at East Chester, were visited once a week by the Medical Sanitary Inspectors in whose districts they are located.

In this way, a total of two hundred and thirty-one schools were visited each week, about two hundred and twenty of them being inspected each day that a school session was held.

In addition, seven of the Inspectors were detailed to twenty-one schools (17 grammar and 4 primary) in which, owing to their crowded condition, from 125 to 400 children in each, attended the afternoon sessions only, each day.

In these special cases, the Inspectors arrived at the schools about 1 P. M. each day.

In the small schools, located in upper and annexed portions of the city, and visited from one to three times a week, the Inspectors began their work at any hour convenient to themselves and those in charge of the schools.

In all other schools the work commenced from 8.40 to 9.30 A.M. The teachers, before the arrival of the Inspector, placed in a room provided for the purpose in each school, all children of whom they had any suspicion of illness, which might be of a contagious or infectious nature. For example, if a child had been absent a few days without a satisfactory excuse, and the teacher was aware that there was, or recently had been, a contagious disease in the house, that child was held for examination by the Inspector, when it returned to school.

A child complaining of sore throat, especially if living in a house where there was a case of diphtheria, was likewise presented to the Inspector for a diagnosis.

A child with a suspicious eruption or peeling of the skin, or whose cough might suggest whooping cough, or one having a purulent discharge from the eyes, or a scholar with a suggestion of itch, ringworm, or pediculi, was detained from the classroom until the nature of its ailment was determined by the Inspector.

An Inspector, on arriving at the school, examines carefully each child that has been isolated by the principal and teachers in charge of the scholars. He excludes each case diagnosed as measles, diphtheria, scarlet fever, mumps, whooping cough, contagious eye disease, parasitic disease of head or body (such as pediculi, ringworm or itch) or chicken pox.

To each child that is to be excluded, is presented a printed card, upon which the Inspector notes the date, name and location of the school, name, age and address of the child, and the reason for its exclusion. This card is signed by the Medical School Inspector and taken home by the pupil.

Before leaving the school, the Inspector fills out a printed daily report blank, giving the date and time of his visit, the name and location of the school, the number of children examined (male, female and total) and the names, ages and addresses of those excluded, with the diagnosis of each case excluded.

On the back of each daily report blank is printed a table for the summary of a week's (5 days) work in a school, giving in separate columns, the total number examined, (male, female and total) and the total excluded, with the number of cases of each disease for which the children were excluded. On the daily report blank used for the last school day of each week, this summary upon the back is filled out for each school day of that week.

Each day, as soon as possible after leaving the school, the Inspector mails a separate daily report for each school visited by him, to the Chief Inspector at the central office, where a daily summary is made of the work performed in all of the schools visited.

The daily duty of the Inspector ceases when he has mailed his report, after leaving his school. He is not under any circumstances to visit a child at its home, to prescribe for it or suggest treatment, at the school.

All children excluded for measles or scarlet fever, are visited at their homes within twenty-four hours, by one of the Diagnosticians of the Board, and such cases are not tabulated as true ones unless he confirms the diagnosis, when a department postal card is sent to the school, excluding the child until after its complete recovery; and, when the necessary disinfection and fumigation of the rooms where it lives, have been attended to, a certificate, allowing it to return to school, is issued.

Children excluded for chicken pox are visited at their homes by the Medical Inspectors of the Division of Contagious Diseases, in whose districts they may live, and are recorded as true cases, only when they confirm the diagnosis.

When there is well-marked clinical evidence in the throat, at the time of the examination, in cases of suspicious diphtheria, the child is excluded, after a culture is taken. When the clinical evidence is not well-marked, a culture is taken, and the child allowed to remain in school, until a report is received by the Inspector from the Division of Bacteriology, stating that an examination of the culture shows the presence of the Klebs-Loeffler bacilli, when the child is excluded.

In all cases where examination of a culture taken by the Medical School Inspector, shows the presence of the Klebs-Loeffler bacilli, a notice to that effect is mailed to the maker of the culture, and also to the Medical Inspector of the Division of Contagious Diseases, in whose district the child resides, who

then takes charge of the case as far as proper isolation is concerned, taking subsequent necessary cultures, ordering disinfection and fumigation when the Klebs-Loeffler bacilli have disappeared from the throat, and issuing certificates for the child's return to school.

The district Medical Inspectors have the same surveillance over the cases where the diagnosis of measles or scarlet fever, made by the School Inspector, has been confirmed by a Diagnostician.

When children are excluded for other diseases (mumps, whooping cough, contagious eye diseases, parasitic diseases, etc.) they are told to return when cured, and are again examined by the Inspector before returning to their classrooms; if not entirely well, they are again excluded.

In many instances, children have been attending school when it has been reported to the teachers, by themselves or other children, that a brother or sister was sick at home with measles, diphtheria or scarlet fever, and as no notice of such illness has been reported to the Board of Health, the Board of Education had not been notified, and no children of that family had been excluded; whenever the name and address of such a case was furnished to the Medical School Inspector, he promptly forwarded it with his daily report, and each case so reported was at once investigated by the District Medical Inspector of the Division of Contagious Diseases. In this way, many of these diseases were discovered where there had been no attending physician, and in each instance, the usual Department postal card was sent to the school, excluding all children from that family.

In this manner the work of the Division has been performed during the past three months, and the following tables give the totals for each of the five different classes of schools that have been visited by the Medical School Inspectors; namely: Primary departments of the grammar schools, primary schools, parochial schools, the industrial schools of the American Female Guardian Society and the industrial schools of the Children's Aid Society.

	Total daily average attendance.	No. of visits to school.	No. of schools visited.
Primary Dpts. of Grammar Schools,	86,877	6,751	97 [#]
Primary Schools,	27,982	3,199	48 [#]
Parochial Schools,	26,134	3,095	52 [#]
American Female Guardian Society,	2,578	462	11 ^x
Children's Aid Society,	5,949	839	20 ^x
Totals,	149,520	14,346	217 [#]

^x Visited during May and June only.

[#] Average number of schools visited daily during three months.

	No. of children examined.			No. children excluded.
	M.	F.	Total.	
Primary Dpts. of G. Schools,	15,271	20,741	36,012	2,249
Primary Schools,	5,856	7,314	13,170	1,021
Parochial Schools,	4,692	5,082	9,774	340
Am. Female Guardian Society,	1,030	1,101	2,131	145
Children's Aid Society,	1,258	1,467	2,725	428
Totals,	28,107	35,705	63,812	4,183

Table Showing Diseases for which Children were Excluded from School.

	MEASLES	DIPHTHERIA	SCARLET FEVER	CROUP	WHOOPING COUGH	MUMPS	CONTAGIOUS EYE DISEASES	PARASITIC DISEASES OF		CHICKEN-POX	SKIN DISEASES	TOTAL No. EXCLUDED
								HEAD	BODY			
Primary Dpts. of G. Schools,	33 55	59 104	11 18	7	18	87	295	144	3	48	60 85	2249
Primary Schools,	13 22	23 43	3 7	4	2	18	188	62	4	33	29 39	1021
Parochial Schools,	4 9	8 17	4 5		3	7	62	20	7	9	4 15	340
Am. Female Guardian Soc'y,	1 1	1 1	2 2		1	2	19	98	4		17	145
Children's Aid Soc'y,	1 1	2 2			2	3	138	255	14		13	428
Totals,	51 88	91 167	20 32	11	26	117	702	267	108	93 130	175	4183

"Cases of true Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Chicken-pox, marked in red."

From these totals, we learn that 4,183 children were found to be affected with some infectious or contagious disease, and excluded from the schools, out of a total of 63,812 examined-over six percent-even allowing for the return to school of those excluded temporarily on account of measles, diphtheria, scarlet fever and chicken pox (162 in all) in whom the diagnosis of the school Inspector was not confirmed by the Diagnostician or district Medical Inspector, although in about a dozen of these cases (mostly chicken pox) the children, on account of wrong addresses being given, could not be seen at home in time to make a diagnosis.

Of the 51 cases of true measles and 20 of true scarlet fever, nearly all were in the stage of desquamation- a few still showed a faint eruption, and in one case of scarlet fever, excluded on account of the elevation of temperature, the marked clinical appearance of throat and fauces, with nausea, the Diagnostician of the Board found the rash just appearing, when the child was visited at its home.

As a rule, among a large number of people having children that attend school, no dread of these diseases, so common to childhood, is felt, and either through indifference or selfishness, they refuse to believe that these diseases are avoidable, and often oppose the use of proper means for their prevention.

A glance at the totals of the various diseases for which the children have been excluded during the 65 school days of the past three months shows the carelessness and ignorance of many parents in regard to the spreading of infectious and contagious diseases. Not thinking of, and perhaps not caring about, the danger, they send their children, carrying the germs of these diseases, into the crowded school room, and needlessly expose and no doubt infect many well children.

These results also show the importance of the Medical School inspections, as one means of preventing the spread of these diseases; and, with this work further extended and perfected, and with the edu-

cation of the parents and guardians as to the necessity of keeping infected children at home, we will be able to reduce the number of these diseases, among the children of this city.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Blauvelt M.D.
Chief Medical School Inspector.

*Health Department,
of the City of New York,
President's Office.*

*Charles G. Wilson,
President & Commissioner.*

New York, _____ July 14, _____ 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,

My Dear Mr. Mayor:-

I send you enclosed a copy of the report of the Chief of the Division of Medical School Inspection for the quarter ending June 30, 1897. The results achieved through the medium of the one hundred and fifty Medical School Inspectors appointed at your suggestion have been in my opinion so far reaching and so interesting from a sanitary standpoint, I thought it would be best to send you a copy of the complete report. The figures contained in the report have already been given to the press.

Yours very truly,

Charles G. Wilson

New York, July 27, 1897.

Hon. John Jerolman,
Acting Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Rec'd & For'd Secretary

9 AUG 8 1897

Dear Sir:-

We, the undersigned, citizens of New York, residing in the neighborhood of No. 38 West 131st Street, beg to call your Honor's attention to a public nuisance, which we respectfully request to have abated.

At the above number, 38 West 131st Street, is a stable under the control and management of *Clarence J. Smith* which affects unfavorably the health and convenience of the neighboring residents, named below, by reason of the noxious odors constantly emitted and the intolerable noise of stamping and braying horses during all hours of the night and early morning. All of which threatens the health and disturbs the rest and comfort of the subscribed.

We, therefore, earnestly request your Honor to direct such measures to be taken as will abate this nuisance.

Respectfully submitted.

Names.	Addresses.
B. B. Stewart	34 W. 131 st St
Mrs. Smith	41 W. 130
John Gallagher	43 W. 130 St
E. Leubuscher	35 W. 131 St
E. R. Halsed	33 W. 131 -
Mrs. A. L. Luckman	36 W. 131 - 21 -
Chas. H. Walsh	36 West 131 st St.
W. Ostrander	36 West - 131 st St.
Wm. H. Benedict	36 West 131 st St.
Robert Bauer	36 W. 131 St
John Lohr Jr	36 W. 131 St
Mrs. E. J. Robinson	36 W. 131 St
C. H. Wingless	36 W 131 St
W. H. Chilton	36 West 131 St
H. Taber	34 West 131 St

Mr. Frank Long	60 W 131 St
Mrs. Prager	62 W 131 St
S B Lerner	34 W 131 St
Gore S Taylor	34 West 131 St
Mrs. Olga Frenger	34 W 131 St

Aug 3

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK.

Complaint and Report of Inspection in reference to premises.....38 West 131st Street..

TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH:

I, W. G. Hudson, M. D., holding the position of a Sanitary Inspector in the HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, do report; That on the 31st day of July, 1897, I personally examined and carefully Inspected the premises situated

38 West 131st Street,
and found the facts as follows: Said premises consist of a stable,
of which C. L. Smith, of 548 W. 28th St., is lessee,
and in violation of Section.....of the Sanitary Code, were found in a condition dangerous

to life and detrimental to health, for the following reasons, viz.: that the flooring of the 2d floor stable leaks, causing the ceiling of the 1st floor to become filthy and offensive. The valley drains and wood work of the horse stalls on the 2d floor are rotted and defective, so that liquid matter is not discharged into the drain. The cellar is also used as a stable; its flooring, woodwork and the ground space beneath, are offensive and saturated with liquid filth; the cellar bottom is not cemented, properly drained or graded. The 1st floor drain has become disconnected from the house drain, a length of pipe having been taken out. This causes the drainage from the 1st floor to discharge upon the cellar bottom, and permits the escape of foul gases. The walls and ceilings through the building are filthy and offensive. The front and rear areas are offensive with filthy refuse.

I RECOMMEND: That the flooring of the 2d floor be properly repaired so as not to leak, and the woodwork of the horse stalls and valley drains be replaced by new flooring and woodwork, so graded that all liquid matter shall discharge into the drain thereat. That all offensive and saturated flooring and earth be removed from the cellar bottom, and the ground space cleaned, disinfected, cemented and so graded as to discharge all liquid matter into a properly trapped sewer connected drain. That the horse stalls be provided with a valley drain, properly graded to the sewer connected drain. That the drain from the 1st floor be properly re-connected with the house drain, all joints to be properly lead calked and gas-tight. That the walls and ceilings throughout the building be thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed. That the front and rear areas be cleaned of all refuse and disinfected.

A TRUE COPY,

(Signed) W. G. Hudson, M. D.

Sanitary.....Inspector.

W. G. Goldman
Secretary pro tem.

No.

Complaint and Report

On

Filed 189

SANITARY BUREAU.

New York, 189

*Respectfully referred to Chief Sanitary
Inspector for inspection and report.*

CHAS. F. ROBERTS, M. D.,
Sanitary Superintendent.

✓
Health Department,

*Centre Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)*

New York,

August 3,

1897

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:-

Answering the complaint of B. B. Stewart, of No. 34 West One Hundred and Thirty-first Street, and others, concerning a stable at No. 36 West One Hundred and Thirty-first Street, I have the honor to forward you a copy of the result of an inspection made on the 31st day of July, 1897, upon which an order was issued. If this order should not be complied with at once the necessary steps to vacate the stable will be taken. I return herewith the communication of Mr. Stewart and others.

Very truly yours,

Charles M. King

President.

Enclosure.

Health Department,

*Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)*

New York, August 13, 1897

Benjamin L. Burrows, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of August 4th, enclosing complaint of Mr. Ravena, of No. 26 Cherry Street, concerning No. 81 Roosevelt Street, and complaint of William Raubel, No. 3029 Third Avenue, concerning lots Nos. 1791-1793 Third Avenue.

In reference to the complaint against No. 81 Roosevelt Street, I beg leave to say that Nos. 81 Roosevelt Street and 34-36 Cherry Street are buildings vacated by the Board of Health for sanitary reasons and condemned, and are now in process of demolition.

In reference to Nos. 1791-1793 Third Avenue, an inspection has been made, resulting as follows:-

"These lots are about one foot below the present grade of Fox St. Fox Street and the other street to the east are not opened or graded, and as the surrounding land lies higher than these lots, all storm water runs down the hills across Fox Street onto these lots, stands for several days and then soaks away. There are at present a few inches of water on these lots, we having had recent rains."

2-B.L. Burrows, August 13, 1897.

Based upon this inspection the following order has been issued:-

"That the lots be filled with fresh earth one foot above the level of standing water thereon."

Yours very truly,

Charles D. Meier
President.

Health Department,

*Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Buildings)*

New York, August 13, 189*7*

Copy.-

George Wolf, Esq.,

246 East Eightieth Street,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your complaint in respect to premises No. 246 East Eightieth Street addressed to His Honor, the Mayor, has been referred to this Department for answer, and in reply I beg to inform you that an order was issued against said premises on the 29th of June, 1897, of which the following is a copy:-

"That the flushing apparatus of the water-closet on the second floor be properly repaired, the bowl thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and said water-closet provided with a supply of water to properly flush the same at all times; that the pan of the water-closet on the first floor be properly adjusted so as to preserve a water seal, and the iron container burned out, scraped and coated with hot tar; that the hole in the main iron soil pipe on the first floor be closed gas-tight with an iron band, and the defective joint in the main iron soil pipe in the cellar properly lead calked; that the cellar and the woodhouse therein be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected."

On the 21st day of July a reinspection was made of said premises and the order reported by the Inspector as complied with. Your recent complaint has been forwarded to the Sanitary Superintendent for an examination and report upon the condition of said premises at the present time.

Very respectfully,

C. Golderman,

Secretary pro tem.

Health Department,
Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)
New York, _____ *August 13,* _____ *189**n*

Benjamin L. Burrows, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of August 11th enclosing complaint of George Wolf in respect to premises No. 246 East Eightieth Street and requesting copy of reply to complainant is received. Herewith please find copy of communication this day addressed to the said George Wolf, as requested.

Very respectfully,

E. Goldman

Secretary pro tem.

Health Department,

*Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)*

New York, August 19, 1897

Copy.-

Otto J. Keene, Esq.,

241 East Seventy-first Street,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 16th instant to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to the placing of clothing in airshafts at No. 239 East Seventy-first Street, has been referred to this Department to answer. In reply, I respectfully inform you that an Inspector of this Department made an inspection of above named premises on the 18th instant and reported as follows:-

"Clothes lines are extended from the air court windows of third, fourth and fifth floors, east side, and from first, third, fourth and fifth floor air court windows, west side, to clothes poles in the yards. The air courts in which the above clothes lines are situated differ from air shafts, inasmuch as the latter are enclosed on all sides and contain at all times more or less impure air, while with the former the roof is open from top to bottom, thereby providing a continuous supply of fresh air, sufficient to destroy any objectionable odors arising from wet clothes (placed there for drying purposes on wash-days only), and also preventing any condition relating to said clothes or clothes lines that would be detrimental to life or health of occupants of premises or adjoining houses."

Very respectfully,

C. Golderman,

Secretary pro tem.

Health Department,

*Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)*

New York, _____ August 19, _____ 1897

Benjamin L. Burrows, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find copy of communication this day addressed to Otto J. Keene, in respect to the placing of clothes in airshafts at No. 239 East Seventy-first Street, as requested.

Very respectfully,

E. J. Ferman

Secretary pro tem.

Enclosure.

*Health Department,
of the City of New York,
President's Office.*

*Charles G. Wilson,
President & Commissioner.*

New York, September 8, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:-

As the death-rate of a city is an important indication of its sanitary condition, I am sure you will be pleased to know that the death-rate in New York for the first eight months of the year 1897 is less than for the same period in any former year. The deaths and death-rates since 1893 are as follows:-

Year	Estimated Population	Deaths, Jan. to Aug. inclusive	Death-rate
1893	1,758,010	31,982	27.3
1894	1,809,353	29,397	24.4
1895	1,879,195	30,699	24.5
1896	1,934,077	30,307	23.5
1897	1,990,562	26,866	20.2

The remarkable decrease in the number of deaths and the death-rate for the eight months ending August 31, 1897, indicates improved sanitary conditions in this city.

Very respectfully,

Charles G. Wilson
President.