specialty, for heart disease in one way or another touches every field of medicine. It supplies the need for the one who wants accurate, well classified information in a hurry and who does not wish to have it cluttered with nonessential details.

The book is well printed and put together. The illustrations, though not very abundant, are excellent.

EDGAR D. BASKETT


This report is shorter than usual. It is known that funds have been cut and personnel reduced, with the necessary curtailment of activities. However, the report is encouraging.

The report begins with a review of world health conditions which necessarily affect us, though we have been fortunate through our quarantine service in keeping epidemic diseases from our shores. Plague continues to be the most imminent menace of all diseases. India had 38,000 deaths from plague in 1932, an increase of about 10,000 over 1931. Typhus fever has been somewhat prevalent in Mexico, and an outbreak of some 955 cases has occurred in this country, confined largely to 3 southern states which recently took up the extensive culture of peanuts.

In the United States the health conditions have been good, the general death rate for 1932 being the lowest ever recorded, and those for tuberculosis, diphtheria, and typhoid fever have also reached new low records. There were some increases in the death rate from the degenerative diseases, such as cancer, heart diseases, etc.; but this is only a continuance of what has been happening for some years. In spite of the distressing economic conditions, unfavorable results have not yet become apparent in the crude death rate, though it has been shown that there is increase of illness among the unemployed, whose economic condition is therefore below par.

The infant mortality has decreased. In 1915, 1 infant out of every 10 born died in the first year, while in 1932, only 1 out of every 17 died. Against this, the birth rate has continued to decline, being now 17.3 per 1,000 population.

Smallpox has decreased, but is still one of the blots on our record. More than 400 cases of cholera were reported in the Philippine Islands, but it did not reach this country. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever continues to be a menace in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific States, and 103 cases, with 10 deaths, were reported on the Atlantic seaboard. Pellagra has decreased from 7,074 deaths in 1924 to 4,091 in 1932, but many health officers anticipate an increase due to poor economic conditions. Undulant fever continued to attract attention, 1,502 cases, with 71 deaths, having been reported in 1932.

The usual quarantine service has been carried on efficiently, 10,935 vessels having been inspected on arrival at domestic ports, and 2,982 at insular ports, while in foreign ports, 179 vessels were inspected before sailing. An interesting feature and one that is comparatively new, is the inspection of airplanes, 4,186 of which arrived at air ports from foreign lands, carrying 25,767 persons. Owing to the lack of personnel, 1,977 entered without the examination required by law. Inspection of airplanes failed to reveal the presence of any disease-bearing mosquitoes in those which had been sprayed during the flight with an oil extract of pyrethrum flowers, though experiments have shown that planes could
and did carry such mosquitoes alive when this precaution was omitted.

During the year a beginning was made on two narcotic farms, one at Lexington, Ky., and one at Fort Worth, Tex.

The Service has moved to its new building on Constitution Avenue and 19th Street, N. W. An interesting history is given of the housing of the Service since its establishment in 1798. Among important matters in which results have been achieved are those on malaria, in which county-wide dusting at 21-day periods has been carried out in an effort to suppress the disease. Studies have also been made on plasmodochin and aetribin, the latter of which have been extremely promising. It seems to be superior to quinine, acting somewhat more quickly and without discomfort to the patient. In coöperation with the State Hospital for Insane, Columbia, S. C., Dr. Mayne has established strains of benign tertian, quartan, and a relatively mild strain of estivo-autumnal malaria. Shipment of live mosquitoes and blood as well as sporozoites from the salivary gland has been carried out successfully.

The Service has carried on extensive studies on hemolytic streptococci and has developed a streptococcus toxoid for immunization against scarlet fever which has been successful in a series of 3 doses in over 80 per cent of 1,700 persons. Diphtheria studies have been continued, and it is announced that the alum precipitated toxoid in a single dose of 1 c.c. is at least as effective as 2 doses of 1 c.c. each of the original unmodified toxoid. It seems entirely probable that this treatment will supersede other prophylactics. Altogether, the report is encouraging, and should be read by health officers and those interested in the state of the public health.

Mazicky P. Ravenel


This book does much to remedy the unsatisfactory position of Immunity as a subject, to which the author refers in the preface. It is a systematic and condensed presentation of an immense amount of material. While a considerable proportion of the printed contents and illustrations have already appeared in The Principles of Bacteriology and Immunity, written by the author and his associate, Professor Wilson, these parts have been revised and either condensed or extended. In the present form the book serves as a specialized text for the advanced student, with a sound foundation in clinical bacteriology. It is in no sense a reference book to be recommended to the beginning student.

The contents, which cover thoroughly the field of immunological interest, include discussions of infection, the mechanism of bacterial invasion and varied defenses of the host, the antigenic rôle of bacteria, with a consideration of their chemical make up, herd immunity, virus immunity. Especially clear are the accounts of the responses of bacteria to the defense mechanisms of the host and the origin of natural antibodies.

Four chapters of the book deal with the practical application of immunity in diagnosis, in prophylaxis, and in treatment, and the standardization of immunological reagents.

At the end of each chapter a concise summary of the important points is given in numerical order with the list of references following.

The term "mechanism" is a favorite one with the author, and data are critically considered from this point of view. The facts are impartially stated and while the author in no way evades