REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISPOSAL OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES.

By Dr. GARDNER T. SWARTS, CHAIRMAN, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Your committee desires to report that owing to the large field over which this subject extends it is impracticable to present a complete report at this time. The question of the disposal of industrial wastes is one which is a most serious and annoying problem to all boards of health in manufacturing districts. The pollution of streams is the natural sequence of the introduction of the many industries.

The demand of a given manufactory that their wastes be disposed of without creating a nuisance would, in many instances, be equal to the demand that they discontinue business inasmuch as the cost of disposal of these wastes, in a satisfactory manner, would be to prohibit the financial success of the industry. There are many cases, however, where it is within the bounds of economical operation to dispose of wastes which at present are discharged into streams simply because no demand has been made for the perfection of such action.

As has been shown at the experiment station of the Massachusetts State Board of Health, and especially by experiments made in England, as well as what has been done by many private corporations, very much can be accomplished which at first would seem to be impracticable, and it is the desire of this committee to place before the Association such experience and measures as have been shown to be of practical application in many industries. As an illustration of the vastness of this field of investigation it may be stated that there are certainly one hundred different forms of industries which produce wastes which make themselves objectionable if not properly cared for.

Each one of these industries requires distinct and individual consideration and while no specific plans can be given for each individual plant yet there are certain general principles which govern the disposal of these wastes in separate forms of industry which would serve as a basis for determining the requirements in individual cases.

That your committee may be enabled to present the accumulation of data upon this subject, and present it in proper form, it would respectfully ask for a continuance of its appointment for another year.