

economical to have all bacteriological work done in one laboratory. But it is not fair to tax these Bureaus in an amount exceeding their proportionate part of the total work done by the laboratory. The taxed Bureaus probably do pay more than their proportionate part, for the demands upon the laboratory are not increased by the internal requirements of the department anything like so much by demands of the State at large.

The services of the bacteriological laboratory are at the service of physicians in all parts of the State for the diagnosis of certain infectious diseases. By this means, the sick people in Maryland can command certain scientific resources which otherwise would be far beyond the means of the average citizen.

The people in Maryland are, in these days, very much concerned about the purity of water and ice supplies, the sanitary quality of milk and milk products, the purification of sewage and the other subjects which cannot be properly studied without well-equipped laboratories and skilled workers. Nor are such demands confined to the State. We are required to certify to the Federal Government several times a year as to the sanitary condition of water and ice supplied to the traveling public. This certification requires us to make sanitary surveys, to collect samples and to make hundreds of chemical and bacteriological examinations for interstate carriers.

The State does not carry the whole or the greater part of the expense incurred on account of such certifications. The City of Baltimore has a very well equipped laboratory. Within a year the counties of Allegany and Garrett have appropriated money and have furnished space for a branch laboratory at Cumberland, performing for these counties all the services formerly performed by the laboratory in Baltimore. The economy of time and cost has developed a much wider use of these advantages than was made when materials had to be sent to Baltimore. The appropriation asked for will not allow any extension of the work of the laboratory. Its main effect will be to somewhat relieve the economic stringency now falling upon other Bureaus of the Department of Health.

*[Which was read and referred to the Committee on Finance.]*