explain the paucity of cases in his city. Opportunities for school infection are certainly not lacking there.

The thorough studies on typhoid fever that have been made in several American cities during the past decade suggests the need for investigations of a like nature for scarlet fever. The JOURNAL will be glad to receive communications from public health and education authorities on the whole question of the influence of schools as propagators of communicable disease.

A NOTABLE INNOVATION

It is interesting to look back over the span of years since the New York Department of Health placed tuberculosis on the list of reportable diseases. At that time, there was much opposition to the plan and at first the Department only required the reporting of cases by institutions, it being merely requested that physicians report their private cases. Eventually the ordinance became mandatory for both institutional and private cases. The recent decision of this same Health Department to treat social diseases in a like manner is of unusual importance.

The first step has been taken in requiring the reporting of all cases of social diseases by institutions and dispensaries, and physicians are requested to report cases coming to their attention in their private practice. It will be especially important to note how many cases of the latter will be reported. It is to be hoped that the physicians will respond and notify the Department of their cases, withholding the names if they so desire. No one denies the value of having a full reporting of cases of communicable disease, but the difficulties and pitfalls that beset the path of venereal disease control are many and differ in various respects from those confronting the control of tuberculosis, diphtheria, etc. Each step must be made with extreme caution, as a misstep might retard progress very materially. We wish the New York Department of Health success. If it can be demonstrated that this metropolitan city can get good results from this procedure, it might be a great incentive to other communities to take similar action.

NOTICE TO HEALTH OFFICERS

It is the intention of the editors to devote a special section of the JOURNAL to a review of the annual reports of state, provincial, and local Boards of Health. In order that this may be done in a satisfactory manner, it is requested that the managing editor be placed on the mailing list of such departments so that there may be no delay in bringing to the attention of the readers of the JOURNAL the important work being executed in all parts of the country.

It is suggested that all other printed matter (Bulletins, Leaflets, etc.) issued by such departments be also forwarded. A column devoted to personal items would likewise prove of interest to our subscribers and notes of this kind will be gladly used whenever possible.

All reports, bulletins, notes, etc., should be sent to the Managing Editor, AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 755 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass., U. S. A. A circular letter containing these requests will shortly be mailed to the State, Provincial and Municipal health departments. It is suggested that public health officers do not wait for this, but place the name of the Managing Editor on their mailing list without delay. It is earnestly desired that the JOURNAL thoroughly represent the Public Health authorities of the four countries belonging to the American Public Health Association and to that end the co-operation of everyone interested is needed.