

systematized health work may be, and is frequently, rendered futile by the whims of an indifferent or hostile council. The Local Board of Health must therefore, in order to be effective, have powers fixed by law, whereby their estimates for statutory routine work would be discussed and passed but assured, as are all other estimates, with a liberal grant to cover the emergency work due to epidemic outbreaks, which are always liable to occur.

Inasmuch, however, as the quality of the work to be done will be measured by the standard of fitness of the members of a Local Board of Health and its officers, it is essential that such be selected on account of some special qualifications. As, however, the possession of necessary qualifications must have been attained by special study and experience, it seems quite evident that the first member of such a Board should be a medical man carefully trained along public health lines. Naturally he should be supported by one trained to interpret the meaning and application of the law to the varied cases which may arise, and hence the County Judge might be associated with him as a second member of the Board. The third trained man would naturally be the chairman of the County Council, or the man, in fact, who has come up from the ranks to the position for the time being of chief representative of the people and guardian especially of their financial interests.

As it may be postulated that to-day with our wealthy counties such men ought not to be expected to do the work gratuitously, it is abundantly plain that it is only the larger cities that will be able and willing to pay for the whole time of the executive officer of the Board. So that in dealing with the county areas outside of cities, it is apparent that several of the rural municipalities, as townships, villages and towns, must be united under one local health authority as in England. If we assume that in Ontario the riding area set apart for a member of the Legislature, which usually has some 25,000 of population, is a good working unit, it would appear that the Local Board of Health should be composed of the Medical Officer of Health, the County Judge and the Warden or Chairman of the County Council. Such a Board being composed of officials, could meet as

the emergency demanded, while in the interim the routine health work would be carried on by the Medical Officer and his Inspectors in the smaller municipalities. It is plain that such an officer must be trained, not alone in medicine but also in the legal bearing of many problems, while necessarily he must prove to be a good executive and financial officer. He would report to his Board and would be readily in consultation with the County Judge whenever necessary.

Such a man, properly trained, must also be properly paid, and must further have security of tenure of office ensured. To lessen the local pressure which some temporary agitation in health matters often creates, it would be well that the Provincial Government, as with County School Inspectors, should pay a proportion of such officer's salary, with power to review on the one hand the thoroughness of local health work, and on the other to hold an investigation before a judge and have evidence taken and cause shown before a medical officer could be displaced. This principle of grants-in-aid has existed in Ontario and other parts of Canada in the matter of school expenditure and is increasingly being utilized in England to encourage municipal effort and promote governmental supervision. Were this adopted as a routine practice the proviso might naturally be inserted in the Act, that payments to the County Board of Health would be made based upon a certificate of the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health that a county had made provision for an adequate salary for the Medical Officer of Health and that it had supplied sufficient funds for carrying on routine public health work in its several branches.

What in essence then must the work of such a Board of Health include?

1. It must include an office staff sufficient to maintain prompt contact by telephone and correspondence with every municipal clerk and sanitary inspector in the county area and establish a thorough system of files and records for the whole district.

2. The Medical Officer of Health must be provided with a laboratory well equipped for both chemical, bacteriological and physical investigations.

3. Such Medical Officer would have on his staff as registrars the municipal clerks