

such advice and information may tend to the preservation and improvement of the public health; and in general to be the agent of the general government in taking such action as will most effectually protect and promote the health of the people of the United States.

The Act provides that this Bureau shall be responsible for the making of those rules and regulations which are the foundation of systems of quarantine between the various States of the Union as well as between nations; yet these rules, having first received the approval of the President, are to be executed, as hitherto, under the supervision and authority of the Treasury Department. While this limitation of the Treasury Department to purely executive functions may be distasteful to the Marine-Hospital Service, it can hardly be claimed, on the other hand, that this body could adequately perform the multifarious duties above set forth.

One function is bestowed upon the Bureau, which is peculiar to this bill, and would probably be of great benefit—the duty of the Bureau to inspect and report upon the conduct of the quarantine establishments formed under the provisions of this Act.

State and municipal authorities are permitted to enforce, if they so elect, such measures as are directed by the President, in accordance with the recommendations of the Bureau; but if such authorities fail or refuse so to do, then the President shall enforce the rules by such means as may seem appropriate to him.

The quarantine sections of the Bill have, evidently, been very carefully framed; and follow closely the provisions of Senator Harris's bill. No member of the Senate has been more interested in public health legislation than the member from Tennessee, nor is there anyone whose opinion would have more weight in that body.

The Bureau is especially directed to take such action, by correspondence or conference, as will tend most effectually to secure the co-operation of State and local boards of health, in establishing and maintaining accurate systems of notification of the existence and progress of contagious and infectious diseases, and to extend, if possible, such systems to foreign countries.

In general, the motive that appears to have prevailed in the making of this Bill is the one which has led to the most useful public health bodies which the country has so far had. That is to say, the intention seemed to have been to create a central health authority, the business of which shall be the collection of all sanitary knowledge and the prompt diffusion of the same.

If this Bureau is able to deserve the confidence of the country, experience with similar bodies tells us that executive functions will from time to time be given to it. The almost hopeless confusion in which the present Con-

gress is involved may, possibly, prevent this new measure from receiving the consideration it fairly deserves; but the bill has been so carefully prepared and so wisely framed that we hope it may be insistently presented at Washington until favorable action is taken.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, March 8, 1894.

## BOOK NOTICES.

AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF ELECTRO-THERAPEUTICS: for Students, General Practitioners and Specialists. By Horatio R. Bigelow, M.D.; and thirty-eight Associate Editors. Thoroughly illustrated. In one large Royal octavo volume, 1160 pages. Extra cloth, \$6.00 net; sheep \$7.00 net; half-Russia, \$7.50 net. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Co., publishers, 1914 and 1916 Cherry Street.

This splendid work is the first and so far the only one of its kind, and has come none too soon when we consider that almost ten thousand physicians within the borders of the United States alone make use of electricity as a therapeutic agent daily. Many others find occasional use for it. The surgeon, the ophthalmologist, the dentist and the gynecologist,—in fact, the specialist, in whatever field, finds it a valuable aid to treatment. It is the mainstay of the neurologist, both in diagnosis and treatment, and the rapid increase of exact knowledge in this branch of medical science is largely due to the service it has rendered. The more familiar we become with the manifestations of electric energy, the more do we recognize its adaptations to the requirements of diseased conditions.

It is this lack of familiarity on the part of the members of the Medical profession with the laws of electro-physics and physiology, more than any other cause, that has retarded the progress of electro-therapeutics. The time has come when the study of electro-therapeutics can no longer be delayed. This very complete work will, it is hoped, supply the much needed information in a very accessible form, the thirty-eight associate editors being men of international reputation in their several departments. Among the Canadian contributors are Dr. Wesley Mills and Dr. Lapthorn Smith of Montreal; among the French are Dr. Larat and Tripiere of Paris; and among the English, Dr. Inglis Parsons of London, and Henry McClure, England. The United States of course furnish the bulk of the articles from the pens of Franklin H. Martin of Chicago, Augustin H. Goelet of New York, A. D. Rockwell of New York, Massey of Philadelphia, Mary Putnam Jacobi of New York, and