services of the different States would be by granting a subvention towards this end to the Public Health Department of each State.

As an alien, ignorant of the finer play of public feeling on such matters it may be, ladies and gentlemen, that like the alien St. Paul addressing the Corinthians, I speak as a fool; if so, judging from the way in which you have received these remarks, and remembering that we are in Massachusetts, again quoting that same authority I cannot but feel that you suffer fools gladly.

One objection I see to this scheme, namely, that it presupposes that the different States are already divided up into districts, having a population of 50,000 or more, each possessing a Medical Officer of Health. This cannot be the case everywhere. A clause therefore would be necessary directing that the State Board of Health should be responsible for notifications of outbreaks and annual reports regarding such areas of the State as are not provided with duly appointed Officers of Health.

Another objection is, that such a scheme wholly uproots the present method of appointing the Health Officers in the various States. If I understand matters aright there is at present in most States a multitude of health officers for small districts untrained and receiving nominal stipends. I think we will agree that qualified health officers, well paid, are everywhere requisite. The appointment of such officers for each county or combination of counties having a population of not less han 50,000 is of supreme importance, and for groups of this size the States can afford to appoint reasonable stipends. I will only say that this has come about in England—so sought after are good health officers that when a few years ago we thought of approaching certain promising men in England to offer them the position of professor of hygiene at McGill University we were informed by more than one of our advisers there that the stipend we could offer,—and it was respectable—was not sufficient: men could make more as district health officers. Such an Act in short would lead to competition to obtain the best men, and stipends would inevitably increase.

Yet another, and at first sight weighty objection, would be, I imagine, that as State officials, the medical officers of health are liable to be dispossessed at each change of administration. Instead of this being an objection it is the very reverse—that is, if we believe that it is to the advantage of the country to be possessed of an able and a stable body of medical health officials. This very demanding that the officer of health possess a diploma of public health cuts out from the service the mere political opportunist. If the post is to be a political nomination no one will trouble to give himself the better part of a year under-