

## Annotations.

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### THE WORK OF THE MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, AND THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

As showing what the State Board of Health is doing for the people of Michigan, and the value and contents of the reports. We give the following from the *Sanitary Record*, London, Eng.

The sixth annual report of the Secretary of the Michigan State Board of Health affords a good example of State Medicine and its administration as it is carried out by our American cousins. The State Board of Health corresponds in some measure to the Medical Department of the Local Government Board, only all its members are not necessarily medical men, but its functions are 'advisory and not mandatory.' The office of public prosecutor in sanitary matters appears to be left to the 'supervisors' of each township, who in turn are to make use of the 'prosecuting attorney' as advocate in their suits. As sanitary advisors, the State Board, through its indefatigable secretary, seems to have put itself in communication with every township and its health officer in the State, reminding them of their broad duties, and demanding, as it appears, to have the legal right with certain returns and information as to births, deaths, and marriages, and as to the prevalence of diseases dangerous to the public health. In addition to this, the State Board diffuses general and special sanitary information from time to time as occasion offers or requires.

In some matters Michigan is ahead of England; for instance, 'whenever any householder shall know that any person within his family is taken sick with the small-pox, or any other disease dangerous to the public health, he shall immediately give notice thereof to the Board of Health or to the health officer of the township in which he resides'—for neglect there is a heavy penalty. The same duty devolves on all physicians.

Health officers are required by the State to forward to the State Board of Health an annual report. This report is not tabular, as our reports are, but running on with form, and concludes with an abstract of the proceedings of the local board of health. The tabular form is to be preferred, and we would suggest to Dr. Baker, the secretary, that the forms, with a little amplification, in vogue at