

ganized for effective and complete work in all branches of the service. The vital statistics of the city, which lie at the very foundation of effective public health service, have never been properly collected. No tables carefully compiled under the immediate supervision of a medical man or vital statistician are regularly published by any city in Michigan. Without such means of knowledge respecting the particular sources of danger to life in Detroit, or in any city, it is not probable that the city will ever have the most effective sanitary work. Knowledge is power, in sanitary work as in other pursuits, and the most effective public health service is based upon accurate knowledge of the sources of danger to life and health within the jurisdiction of that service. Complete statistics of deaths, where obtained, supply the knowledge of relative danger to life from each recognized cause of death ; and such statistics, properly studied in connection with other facts, also lead to a knowledge of many causes of death not previously known, and which cannot otherwise be ascertained.

FOR SUCCESSFUL GENERAL SANITATION

it is only by organized effort that the best success is attained ; what is needed in this city, and in every city, is that the comparatively few who really appreciate the very great importance of this work shall strongly co-operate and be active and energetic in intelligent efforts for the proper organization and work of the public health service. It is a subject which deals with questions upon which our very lives depend, and is so far above all the usual questions of party politics that all good people should unite to select and retain the very best men it is possible to secure, and to see to it that such men shall be supplied with the money and support necessary to properly maintain an effective health service. We should remember that the most severe tax to pay is the "debt of nature," and next to that the heavy tax which sickness always entails, and in one way or another forces the collection. These considerations are too often lost sight of by "penny wise and pound foolish" city authorities who grudgingly dole out a few dollars, and sometimes fail to do even that, for the use of the city board of health, the most important organization in the city, and one on whose proper action depends the health, life and happiness of the people who pay the taxes ; for, although the sickness from preventable causes is usually most severe