

That is unnecessary. There are numerous centres—centres in every State—at which by the co-operation of the Universities and the State Boards of Health the necessary teaching, didactic and more particularly practical, can be afforded. Each State, indeed, could train its own men. But when, as at the present, one State of this Union possesses no less than sixty-five separate bodies having the privilege of granting the degree of LL.D. it is obvious that the degrees granted by all the sixty-five are not of equal value—that some, indeed, are a trifle discreditable. Thus, under this scheme the Federal authorities should be empowered to select or to recognize the courses of training afforded by certain Universities only. Or what comes to the same thing, but involves less interference on the part of the Federal authorities with State prerogatives, the Act should lay down that the Health Department in each State shall itself select some one or two universities with which to co-operate in establishing a course for the training of its health officials.

I urge therefore that the next stage to be taken in the advance of the public health service in this country is the passage of an Act which shall render it obligatory throughout the Union that on and after a certain date no one shall be appointed Medical Officer of Health who cannot present a diploma from some recognised teaching body showing that he has passed a satisfactory examination, written and practical, in the subjects of Public Health and State Medicine—the course of training and the scope of the said examination to be laid down in the said Act. Following the lines of the English Act, this Act should contain retroactive clauses to the effect that those who had been Medical Officers of Health above a certain number of years should be confirmed in their positions—should not be required to present themselves for examination, and that those appointed within a certain number of years before passage of the Act might be required to present themselves for examination and to present the diploma before a certain date.

A further clause in such an Act should deal with the subject of stipend. In England the central and the local authorities contribute half and half. Here the conditions are very different. England, strictly speaking, is in the position of one of the constituent States, not in that of the whole Union, and the scheme here outlined demands that the Medical Officer of Health of a district affords to the Federal authorities at Washington what is little more than a reduplication of what he has to afford to the central health department of his State. Nevertheless in so doing he performs an essential service to the Federal authorities—a service which, failing him, could only be obtained by them at a very serious expense. Probably the simplest method whereby Washington could acknowledge its indebtedness to the public health