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## THE WORK OF LOCAL HEALTH BOARDS AGAIN.

SOMEWHAT like the work of the house-wife, the work of the local boards of health is "never done;"—there seems always something more to be done. The early spring is, however, usually the scavenger's "harvest time"—his services are then brought most into use. Waste matters will yet accumulate greatly during the severe weather of this climate. Cremation in the kitchen stove and elsewhere is not yet practised on the refuse of the kitchen as it should be, and altogether now in the month of May is the time of most active and vigorous war with dirt. If the boards were more active during the winter there would be less of this great spring work and war, and it would be much better for all concerned; and we desire now, by a "timely word," to impress the more upon the boards the desirability of so educating the people in their jurisdiction or municipality that there shall not be such a great hubbub at this most lovely spring time, when all should be most happy and serene. With the renewing of life everywhere in this beautiful season, the imperative work of the Sanitary Inspector usually breaks in, and during the whole season it is topsy turvy with most human beings, while birds and flowers are in the enjoyment of most happy and peaceful life. It was not enough for the provincial authorities to make provision for or demand a local board of health in every municipality, parish or district, and to be able to give large figures as to the number of local boards in their respective province,—not enough to be able to relate that two hundred or five hundred local boards of health had been already organized in the province. This is but the beginning—but the first step in the stair-

way to that dirt exterminated elevation to which all practical sanitarians are surely, if but slowly, wending their weary course. The next and more important and essential steps may be regarded as those by which all these boards are directed what to do and how and when to do it. Have any Provincial Boards, have any of the many neighboring State Boards, yet adopted any systematic means of directing the local boards in their work? The issuing of pamphlets of instructions on disinfection and on "What to do" in certain diseases is a great help to the boards, but it is far from being enough. The boards are but badly paid, if paid at all, in any manner or degree, for their valuable time and labor, and hence they cannot be expected to spend a season under tuition. By instinct almost, they have long ago come to know that the spring is a good and a safe cleaning up time. But preventive medicine has made progress, it has found out even that accumulations of dirt should be prevented; that vigilant, but easy, constant work by boards and by individuals is vastly better and safer than spasmodic effort, perhaps after a fatal stain has been made and to be forever left; and that the time for cleaning like the time for Godliness is ALWAYS. We would then at this impressive season urge upon all boards, urban and rural, the desirability of so educating their people in the future that they will use efficient means for preventing the accumulations which necessitate every year this terrible spring warfare.

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FROM "Friend Olivia" in the Century: "If people speak ill of me, I ask what kind of people they admire, and then it often happens that I am quite consoled."