

of the people. During the past year, a monthly *Journal de Hygiene* has been established in Paris, and a fortnightly periodical, *Zdorovie*, (*The Health*), in St. Petersburg. In all these countries leading medical men and the state authorities are giving much attention to sanitary matters.

Eight years ago, in 1869, in Massachusetts an act was passed for establishing a State Board of Health. This, consisting of seven members, appointed by the Governor in council, was at once formed and has been in constant active working order from that time to the present. The Act provides that :

‘The Board shall take cognizance of the interests of health and life among the citizens of this Commonwealth. They shall make sanitary investigations and inquiries in respect to the people, the causes of disease, and especially of epidemics, and the sources of mortality and the effects of localities, employments, conditions and circumstances of the public health ; and they shall gather such information in respect to those matters as they shall deem proper, for diffusion among the people. They shall advise the government in regard to the location of any public institutions. They shall in the month of January, make report to the legislature of their doings, investigations and discoveries during the year ending December thirty-first, with such suggestions as to legislative action as they may deem necessary.’

The reports of the Massachusetts Board are second only to those, of world-wide reputation, of Mr. Simon, late of the Government Board, Great Britain. I have before me a brief report of seven years’ work of this Board, which shows that it was possessed of a full knowledge of the important work it was appointed to do, and that it went about it with a will and vigor that made itself felt and appreciated, and it is highly appreciated by the State, and is increasing in power and efficiency.

Soon after organization this Board sent circulars to the mayor and board of health of every city, to the selectmen of every town, to every member of the legislature, and to every clergyman and physician in Massachusetts to call the attention of local boards of health to the powers which they possessed and the duties which devolved upon them under existing laws, and to urge upon all those in authority to insist upon an immediate enforcement of those laws and a faithful performance of those duties. It made arrangements for the collection and publication, weekly, in the *Boston Daily Journal*, of the number of deaths, with their prevailing causes, in twenty of the leading cities and towns of the State. It also selected one hundred and fifteen physicians, scattered throughout the State, who consented to make weekly reports of the diseases which might be prevalent in their immediate localities. Arrangements were also made for the publication of the general results obtained from these reports, in connection with the weekly mortality-returns published by the Secretary in the *Boston Daily Journal* each Thursday. The result of all this, and the reports, has been a general awakening of the people throughout the State to the importance of public and individual sanitary work, and to temper them into a ‘sanitary mould of thought and character.’