

and every local board for the benefit of all the other boards, through a system of annual and special reports to the State Board of Health, which is charged with the duty of collecting and disseminating all sorts of useful information on the causation, prevention and restriction of diseases and deaths.

It may thus be seen that though the State Board collects useful information from all possible sources, it is more or less dependent upon local boards for material to compile, collate and utilize for the general good; and its work in diffusing information, and in other directions, is advanced by whatever advances the general activity and usefulness of the local boards. We have seen that the local boards are what the people make them. So that what is most essential to progress in public health and consequent prosperity is general progress in sanitary knowledge among the people. To those good people in Detroit and Grand Rapids who, with this object in view, have made these Sanitary Conventions possible and successful, are due our thanks and the thanks of all citizens.

SANITARY REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS.

READ BEFORE THE MICHIGAN SANITARY CONVENTION, DETROIT, JANUARY 1880, BY HON. HENRY W. LORD.

Scientifically there are no sanitary rewards and punishments, in the sense in which I may use those terms. I therefore commence this paper by striking out its title.

An oak favorably situated, and year by year rising and spreading upward, availing itself of all accessories to its growth, until it arrives at ideal perfection, under the operation of natural rules of order, cannot be said to be the recipient of sanitary rewards, nor can one adversely placed, making such progress as it may, with obstacles to encounter that stunt and deform its growth and abridge the duration of its life, be said to be the subject of sanitary punishments. The one flourishes in conformity to law with resources available, and the other suffers by alienation from necessary conditions or deprivation of support.

Something like sanitary rewards and punishments, however, result from the observance or violation of sanitary laws; but as rewards and punishments involve of necessity a consciousness of right and wrong on the part of the recipient, as well as a discrimination on the