

complete a manner as is accorded Boards of Education and even Municipal Councils. They should be entirely independent of and not subsidiary to Municipal Councils. In too many instances the opinion that "corporations have no souls" is verified in this connection. They fail to extend that generous support necessary to carry on sanitary work, and the bond of friendship and aympathetic coöperation which may have existed early in the history of the Local Boards, becomes strained, the moment the *pabulum vitae* is required, and from this time we mark a tendency to inertia and decay in our Local Boards. I speak from personal knowledge. The Lindsay Board at its formation was a good one, every individual member anxious to do his duty. They were men of nerve and spirit and at once proposed putting the town in improved shape; wells, streets and sewers were cleaned by their orders; strict isolation in cases of contagious diseases insisted upon; premises in which such diseases had appeared fumigated and sweetened, and by their prompt action and energy, an epidemic of diphtheria which threatened to assume formidable proportions was effectually stamped out. They carefully considered the question of water supply and efficient drainage, and advised immediate action towards improvement; but when they reached this important point, when they had the temerity to ask necessary funds, the councillors metaphorically bid them a very good morning and promised to consider their proposal another day. From this time they became discouraged, their influence for good destroyed, and all that remains is a mere name, and the record of their good intentions. It is now a matter of singular good fortune to get together even a quorum for the transaction of routine business. This description I take to be the common experience. Knowing this, as I do, you will thoroughly realize that if Local Boards are to exist, a change is called for. Once placed in such a position that they can use public money without being dependent upon soulless corporations, a great point will be gained. The matter or manner of their selection, whether by the councils or by electoral vote, is a secondary consideration, although I think the latter a better choice.

It is somewhat difficult to define the duties of health officers—not what should be their special work, but as laid down by legislative enactment. Indeed, on considering the several Health Acts we find their powers wonderfully circumscribed, cramped and ill defined, an example, I presume, of the wisdom of our legislators, who are apt to regard with suspicion