

where the traditions of the hoary past still linger. The association feels sure, however, that in a state whose earliest boundaries indeed were embraced in those two wondrously euphonious words: Ohio, the Beautiful, and Onabache, the White, that its members will experience from her citizens every kindness which can spring from those who live constantly under the beneficent tutelage of the good deities of two such beautiful streams.

It has become the established custom of past years to summarize, in the presidential address, some of the more important phases of public health work, which have attracted scientific attention during the year preceding each annual meeting. The past year, like those which have preceded it, has also presented matters of interest which might, with profit, be referred to; but as such will naturally engage our attention in the several papers to be presented at subsequent sessions, I have deemed it not inappropriate to attempt a survey of public sanitation as embraced in the history of social and scientific progress during the century just closing, and can only hope that from such we may obtain some idea, however inadequate of the truth, beautifully expressed by Emerson in his essay on history, that "There is a relation between the hours of our life and the centuries of time. As the air we breathe is drawn from the great repositories of nature, as the light on my book is yielded by a star a hundred millions of miles distant, as the poise of my body depends on the equilibrium of centrifugal and centripetal forces, so the hours shall be instructed by the ages and the ages explained by the hours."

In order, then, to obtain any adequate conception of the causes which have brought "public health" as a science to the position we find it occupying at the close of the century, we have to inquire into the influences which have been at work during the hours of the century, and of that period just preceding it, the "Renaissance" which may be justly called the birthday of modern science, and of which Carlyle said, "Behold, a new era is come! —the future all the brighter that the past was base."

Of it, as epitomized in the French Revolution, we may truly say that though its advent was marked by portents, agonies and birth throes, yet there it stood, an indubitable fact, with infinite potentialities, and having stamped upon its, as yet infantile, features, the ineradicable birth-mark: "The rights of man." For fifty years had France, England, Germany and America been sensible of the pulsations of a new being—Philosophy and Science had conceived it and been its sponsors at the christening. Not, however, that in germinal force it had not existed earlier, for had not Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo and Newton already lived and offered to the world divine gifts? But till now, as of the words of the great moral teacher of an earlier age, "The ears of men were deaf that they might not hear;" or, as expressed by Carlyle,