

that in the United States there is no national Board of Health, and there are no national regulations affecting sanitary matters. In each of the several states of the Union the sanitary administration is solely under the control of the State authorities. The State Boards of Health are energetic and progressive in many of the states, but in a few there is no sanitary work of importance done.

It necessarily follows that throughout the United States there is a great lack of uniformity in regulations and methods and in the efficiency of their execution. It is hardly possible to make any definite statement as to the condition of preventive medicine generally, for what is true of one State is not true of another. Speaking broadly, in the rural districts and in the smaller towns and cities, especially in the south and west, the sanitary methods are of the crudest type. On the other hand, in many of the large cities, there is found a broad, enlightened and progressive policy and an efficient administration, equal to that presented in any of the great cities of the world.

Instead, therefore, of attempting the consideration of the broader subject of public medicine in the United States, I have confined myself to the discussion of the conditions and methods of sanitary work in New York, as they serve as a type of the best of those found in the greater American cities.

The Health Department of New York City is organized under a special Act of the Legislature of New York State, and is an entirely independent sanitary organization, not being subject even to the jurisdiction of the State Board of Health.

The Board of Health of New York City is composed of four members, viz. : The President, who is the chief executive officer; the Commissioner of Health, who must be a physician (these two being appointed by the Mayor of New York City), and (two *ex-officio* members—the Health officer of the Port of New York (who is a state officer nominated by the Governor), and the President of the Board of Police Commissioners of New York City (the latter being added to bring the Police Department and the Health Department in closer relations to each other). The Commissioner of Health of the Health Board of New York City is *ex officio*, a member of the State Board of Health, as is also the Health Officer of the Port of New York; so that two of the members of the Municipal Board are also members of the State Board of Health, but the State Board has no jurisdiction in New York City, and the action of the Municipal Board is absolutely independent.