

## UNITED STATES

**The First Recipient of D. P. H. at the University of Michigan.**

The honorary degree of Doctor of Public Health was conferred upon Dr. William Augustus Evans, of Chicago, at the recent 67th annual commencement exercises of the University of Michigan. This is the first time this degree has been conferred at Michigan, and in honoring the Chicago physician, President Hutchins, of the university, said:

"The university, recognizing the inestimable value of preventive medicine to the people, has recently provided for a course of instruction leading to the degree of Doctor of Public Health. It is certainly fitting that the first recipient of this degree should be Dr. William A. Evans, of Chicago, a man who, for a number of years, has controlled the sanitation of the metropolis of the northwest, whose service in that regard has been conspicuous for its efficiency."

The courses leading to the degree of Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health have but recently been approved by the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, and will be offered for the first time next fall. The only other universities in the United States offering these courses are Pennsylvania, Columbia, and Harvard. Some work in this course is demanded of all physicians practicing in Great Britain, and Canada is falling rapidly into line.

At the University of Michigan candidates for either degree must first have the degree of Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts, and the further degree of Doctor of Medicine. The course leading to the degree of Master of Public Health is of one year, covering work in advanced bacteriology and parasitology, practical hygiene, physical education, sanitary engineering, building, sanitation, hydraulic work, autopsy technique, special pathology of infectious diseases, social and vital statistics, sanitary legislation.

The moral character of applicants for these degrees must be shown to be above question. The examination in the courses before the degree is conferred is both the-

oretical and practical. The candidate for a degree must carry out a piece of original investigation of sufficient value, present a thesis on the same, and successfully defend this thesis.

The course leading to the degree of Doctor of Public Health is of two years, identical with the one described above, but the second year must be spent in research work and a second thesis prepared and defended.

Dr. William A. Evans, as Health Commissioner of Chicago, transformed the Department of Health from little more than a name to one of the most useful branches of the city government. In scope and size it was increased three times. In the number of men and equipment it was doubled. In the matter of efficiency it became 50 to 75 per cent. better.

Among the new lines which Dr. Evans inaugurated, the bureau of publicity and education probably stands foremost. He has always maintained that the chief work of the Health Department in its prevention of disease lies in the education of the people. The bureau published a weekly health story in popular style and distributed it throughout the city. A corps of lecturers was established by Dr. Evans, who invited the organizations of the city to avail themselves of the department's lecturers. He himself gave on an average one lecture a day throughout his term of office.

Dr. Evans also enlarged the scope of the weekly health bulletin, eliminating much of the dry technical and statistical matter and substituting for it advice on health topics of more service to the public. It was probably the foremost journal of its kind in the world, and has been widely copied. Another branch of the educational side of the department was the bulletin board service which he started. Weekly health bulletins were posted in many of the factories, department stores, and commercial houses in the city.

Probably the most discussed of his innovations in the department is his work on ventilation and impure air diseases, a subject formerly entirely neglected by the department. He showed that the impure air diseases, such as pneumonia, tubercu-