

could be kept out. As an additional precaution, even where there has been no known infection, all articles likely to convey disease into the school could be easily disinfected, if it were only a custom to do so and provision were made for such disinfection. It would be easy to have a small room at every school-house where the outer wearing apparel, etc., could be disinfected and aired while the wearer was in school, instead of having, as is now so commonly the case, the clothing of all closely packed in an unventilated closet.

#### GENERAL BOARDS OF HEALTH.

Some one may question why, in this paper on general sanitation, so little is said about general boards of health—State and National. It is not because such boards are not of exceedingly great importance, for in my opinion they are essential to successful general sanitary work, but because they are further removed from the people for whom this paper is intended, and because of the truly democratic character of the health laws of this State, their theory and underlying principles being that

#### LOCAL NUISANCES SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

This principle seems to me to be so manifestly sound that it is unnecessary to dwell upon it ; but inasmuch as it is so frequently overlooked, it seems necessary to mention it briefly : The laws of this State give to local boards of health almost absolute power over everything relating to the restriction and prevention of diseases, the abatement of nuisances, etc., and no such powers are given to the State Board of Health, which has duties no less important, but of a different character. It will thus be seen that local boards of health are justly responsible for preventable

#### SICKNESS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION.

As the local boards of health which have this absolute power, and consequent responsibility, are composed of just the men whom the people of each locality choose to have act as the guardians of their lives and health, it seems evident that no progress can be made except the people themselves shall in some way make progress in sanitary knowledge ; and as it would be very much like requiring a man to raise himself by his boot-straps to expect that the greatest progress can be made without some outside aid, the laws of this State make provision for the utilization of the best work and experience of each