

maintain poor-houses, hospitals, insane asylums, asylums for the deaf, dumb and blind, jails, and even prisons; much of this expense would then be entirely unnecessary; and many of the causes for demands now made for private charity would not exist; thus, as I believe, not only our personal expenses but our State, county and municipal taxes would be materially lessened, the prosperity of our people would be something wonderful when compared with our present condition, and the phrase, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," would have its first and last terms wonderfully emphasized.

There is no reason to fear that we should suffer for want of doctors, even if we were to ask everyone of those now practicing to change his employment to the prevention of sickness. If more were needed I think they would be forthcoming; but suppose every one of the 1,261 local boards of health in this State should constantly employ one physician as a health officer, there would still remain 2,240 doctors to attend to the sickness which the other third failed to prevent; and the 1,261 physicians who would then be constantly employed as health officers of local boards of health would cost for permanent salaries only a small part of the \$3,500,000 which is now estimated to be paid to physicians.

The main reason why we need an active health officer who understands his business, in every city, village and township, is that the people do not now seem to know the preventable nature of the diseases which kill them. In many places they stand by like dumb animals, and suffer their children to die of diphtheria and other communicable diseases, and never lift a finger to try to prevent the spread of these diseases. This apathy and ignorant or wilful disregard for human life is not confined to the rural districts, but is seen in cities.

#### PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATIONS.

In Detroit, the burials in the city cemeteries indicate that the deaths number about 2,000 in each year. Of this number, the deaths from diseases usually included among those which endanger the public health, and which therefore are both by the law and by sanitarians regarded as preventable, usually number about 240, which is twelve per cent. of the total deaths reported. And this does not include consumption, pneumonia, or diarrhœa, many deaths from which diseases I believe could be prevented. If we conclude