

YOUR CITY NEEDS ITS HEALTH OFFICERS ALL THE TIME.

Within the last few years the general public has come to realize more fully the importance of sanitation and public health protection. With this growth of the knowledge of the necessity of public health work has come a realization of the increasing need for full-time health officers. The term "full-time health officer" is applied to the health official who is not permitted to engage in other gainful occupation, but devotes his entire time to the work of protecting the health of the district, county, or city by which he is employed.

A person who has to engage in some other occupation for a livelihood and who attends to the duties incumbent upon the health officer during spare time cannot be expected to render the best service. A competent full-time official who has complete supervision of the health affairs is the best protection for the health of the public that can be obtained.

A full-time health officer has many important duties to perform. The presence of cases of communicable disease must be known before their occurrence can be controlled; hence one of the most important duties of a health officer is to collect statistics as to the prevalence of disease, and as to births and deaths. In order to combat disease in a given community, it must be known what diseases are occurring and where such cases are located. The public must be educated as to the cause, modes of spread, and prevention of the more common preventable diseases. Special campaign direction toward the eradication of the more preventable diseases in a community requires the attention of the full-time health officer. In fact, the work of a full-time health officer is very broad and can be extended and developed in many ways.

The average rural county in the United States with a population of 30,000 loses at least \$60,000 each year from preventable diseases. Would it not be more economical from the standpoint of dollars and cents, not considering the humanitarian standpoint of the saving of needless deaths and unnecessary suffering, to establish full-time health officials in all communities and thus prevent the needless waste of human lives and money?—From **Public Health**, published by the Michigan State Department of Health.

PERTINENT QUERIES.

1. Do you know the birth rate and the death rate in your community, and whether it compares favorably or unfavorably with that in other places.
2. Have you a welfare or health council to supplement and stimulate the work of your local health department? Has such a council made a survey of health conditions from the point of view of prevention rather than cure, and have its constructive recommendations borne fruit as seen in a higher standard of community health?
3. Do you know what diseases are most prevalent in your community and what measures are taken against them.
4. Is there good medical inspection in your schools by doctors and nurses, with follow-up work when necessary in homes? What published reports have you from these inspectors? Is your health department sufficiently financed to do this work in a thorough and efficient manner?
5. Have any of the schools in your town made provision for providing lunch—free or at a nominal price—for the children?
6. Have you adequate hospital and dispensary accommodation with ample provision for free treatment?
7. What health standards are guaranteed in your jails, insane asylums, children's homes, homes for the aged and other institutions; guaranteed for these dependent delinquents and defectives, by a society that is so largely responsible, through ignorance, indifference or neglect, for having these wards of the state dependent on its intelligent, sympathetic care and generosity?—**Canadian Public Health Journal**.

A GOOD CITIZEN.

"A good citizen is one who is willing at all times to make some sacrifice of his time, means and convenience to advance the common welfare, and has such an abiding interest in this that he is always watchful and needs no urging to do his duty."—Ex-Governor Judson A. Harmon, Ohio.

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