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GENERAL SANITATION—ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE PUBLIC  
WELFARE, AND A PLEA FOR BETTER METHODS.

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Secretary of the Michigan State Board of Health.

*(Read before the Grand Rapids Sanitary Convention, February 18).*

The subject of general sanitation, assigned to me by the committee, is one so wide in extent, and so profound, that I cannot hope to do justice to it as a whole; therefore, realizing the fact that a long and heavy load is frequently lifted with the greatest ease when only one end is required to be raised at a time, and especially that when one end of a load is already well raised the most important work is the raising of the other end, I have decided to glance at the general character, scope and importance of the work, ask more particular attention to such parts as in my opinion are most sadly neglected in Michigan at this time, and plead for better methods and more methods than are now employed, especially in certain neglected departments of general sanitation. In doing this, it seems almost essential to consider the character, necessary acquirements, and duties of those who are to do sanitary work; and these are the officers and members of local boards of health, particularly the health officers.

The end of the general subject assigned to me, which I propose to lift on at this time, in accordance with the expressed wish of the committee and with my own judgment, relates mainly to the restriction and prevention of diseases which endanger the public health, and whose causes and modes of communication and best methods of prevention are not generally well understood. It may be said in passing that the department of public sanitation, which I consider to have already received the greatest attention, is that which relates