

as they may be in other directions, know little of the practical work for which they are employed, and, as in the other public services, it is essential that they be carefully trained at the public expense before they are of value to the administration.

Upon everyone officially identified with state medicine the importance of this matter is constantly impressed. To be held responsible for the prevention of sickness and the saving of life, and to know that for the performance of the duties either untrained or only partly trained allies are available, is indeed no enviable position, and yet such are the conditions under which much of our public health work is done. So far as I have been able to observe, the defects are not of the heart, but of the head and hands; for a more willing, earnest and, usually, underpaid group of enthusiasts than those identified with our public health work would be difficult to discover.

Those of our medical schools affiliated with universities or constituting organic integers of them have at hand the remedy for this defect in many instances. In the chemical and bacteriological laboratories special, practical courses designed for the public health official could readily be organized. In the veterinary departments the approved methods of preparation and the necessity for rigorous inspection of food stuffs of animal origin could be taught and demonstrated. In the engineering schools courses designed particularly for the practical sanitarian might be instituted. Between the zoological and pathological departments information upon the life processes and the effects of the animal parasite could be supplied; through the law school lectures upon law, especially as related to registration of vital statistics, nuisances, epidemics, quarantine, construction of dwellings, protection of water courses, disposal of sewage, etc., could easily be provided; through the use of the public hospitals for contagious diseases the student could be given the opportunity of seeing these maladies as they are, instead of hearing about them by word of mouth or reading about them in books, as is now too often the case; and from the special chair of hygiene, state medicine or public health, as it may be denominated, the outcome of these several lines of study may be correlated and their influence upon the great problem of preventive medicine directly shown.

After a special course of study along some such lines as these, the approved student should be formally rewarded by the institution with the official seal in the way of a degree or a certificate of proficiency.

I believe were this matter taken seriously by our influential schools, the movement would become general wherever practicable, and I know that by this plan, and this only, can our public service be regularly recruited with men having an intelligent appreciation of the work before them, and the practical ability to do it on demand.