

this change, and the Act establishing it had retroactive clauses so as to inflict the least possible injury on those already serving as Officers of Health. The law directed what should be demanded by the bodies affording the Diploma of Public health. Before passing the examination the candidate should provide certificates of having taken special courses in such subjects as chemistry, with more particular reference to water and food analysis, bacteriology, the inspection of premises and sanitary works; and the examination itself must be practical as well as written, and include also a paper upon Public Health legislation and regulations. The act in short demanded special training, and that post-graduate; it created a trained body of Medical State Officials.

A subsequent Act, that of 1894, revolutionized the Local Government of England by the establishment of Urban and Rural District Councils, called County Councils, bodies elected distinct from the Municipal Corporation on the one hand and the Boards of Magistrates, which had held sway in the Rural Districts until then. Under these County Councils the control of the sanitary districts is placed. Under the new law each District Council has to appoint a Medical Officer of Health, or officers, who must not hold any other appointment, or engage in private practice without the written consent of the Council. The Rural County Council, however, may make terms with the District Urban Council for the services of its medical officer, and doing this need not appoint a special officer of its own. These medical officers of health are the officials of the County Councils, who have full powers of appointment. Their duties to the County Council are clearly defined by law. I do not know that it is necessary to go fully into these duties, but briefly note that they have to report on premises dangerous to health, to inspect and report upon premises and on the application of four or more householders; to inspect nuisances; may order the removal of accumulations of filth within 24 hours; may enter and inspect slaughter houses, etc.; are to inspect and examine all kinds of food exposed for sale, or in the course of preparation for sale; may enter premises where animals are kept, supposed to be injurious to health, and take steps to prevent overcrowding, etc. To superintend the ventilation of factories and workshops, the prevention of nuisances arising from noxious vapours in offensive trades, to take samples of milk in course of delivery—all come under their power, while they are empowered to ascertain the course of drains and to issue directions for cleansing and disinfection and the abatement of nuisances; as again they are entitled to be supplied with information of the registered deaths, and any cases of dangerous sickness of paupers—and upon these matters they have to make periodical reports to the County Council.