

the Medical Profession of the State: "By great energy and the pursuance of the most judicious but honest policy, and by earnest appeals in the cause of humanity, this long desired object was accomplished, for our own State, during the last session of our General Assembly. The registration of vital statistics, and of facts and occurrences bearing on public health and longevity, became a law of our commonwealth. This great boon, so long yearned for by the thoughtful and the benevolent of our profession, is an enterprise *strictly our own*; it was initiated by medical men; by them it was principally carried into accomplishment; and to them the responsible trust is confided, as a special and peculiar province—a province *not* of gain, and still less of enjoyment; but on the other hand, one of toil, and of labor, and of anxious care. By Physicians, principally, are the first facts to be observed; by them they are to be recorded; by them they are to be reported; by Physicians, again, are these same facts to be tabulated and generalized; and lastly, it is by the faithful and painstaking labor of Physicians only, that these multitudinous and often incongruous facts can be made to yield the *reward* of love to repay the *labor* of love, so anxiously sought for and so diligently done. What is this reward? It is not at all a sordid or a mercenary one; and yet, while its ultimate and grandest end is the preservation of human health, individual and general, and the prolongation of human life, there are other benefits to be educed from the faithful registration and report of vital and medical facts, which directly concern the advancement and improvement of medical science itself."

In Alabama, Dr. Baker, Secretary of the Michigan State Board of Health, informs me, the State Medical Society has now been legally established a State Board of Health, and the County Societies are to act as Local Boards. This is all very pleasing and highly honorable to the Medical Profession. Massachusetts and Michigan are taking the most active part in sanitary matters, and are doing a good and noble work. At most of the meetings of the State *Medical Societies* in the U. S., the subject of Public Health, is dwelt upon to a greater or less extent. In Canada, as you know, Dr. Brouse has repeatedly agitated the subject, and pressed upon the Dominion Government the importance of Sanitary Legislation; and our Medical Council has moved in the matter. As to instruction in Sanitary Science in our Medical Schools, the subject is yet apparently regarded as the least important branch of the science of medicine, though it is now taught to some extent; while in the student