

Medical Faculty of the city of Belleville, expressing their sympathy for myself and family in the sad loss we have sustained by the death of a good husband and father.

It is a source of great consolation for me to receive the very numerous evidences of the esteem in which my late husband was held by his many friends, but none cheers me more than that which I have just received from his medical brethren of this city.

Please accept my most sincere thanks for the very kind expressions contained in your letter, which I shall treasure up as a much prized and sacred memorial of my late husband.

Respectfully yours,

(S'd.) MARY HIGINBOTHAM.

Belleville, March 27th, 1880.

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The State Sanitary Convention, the second of the series was held in Grand Rapids on the 17th of February, and following days. It was in every respect a success. It was largely attended, many valuable papers were read and discussed, and a large number of sanitary apparatus and appliances were on exhibition, such as air moisteners, sewer traps, ventilators, ozone machines, water closets, disinfectors and disinfectants, sanitary publications, etc.

Dr. Baker, the Secretary of the Board, read a very able and interesting paper on "General Sanitation." He advocated the appointment of a health officer for every locality, to be paid a stated salary. The number of doctors in the State of Michigan is estimated at 3500, and estimating the average annual income at \$1000 each, the people of that State pay \$3,500,000 to those who prescribe for the sick. If an "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," can any sane person suppose that if one sixteenth of the 3500 physicians were constantly employed and paid for their services and their success in searching out and applying all possible knowledge for the prevention of sickness and death, it would require all the remaining 3282 physicians to prescribe for the sickness from non-preventable causes? In the city of Detroit, the number of deaths are about 2000 annually. Of these 240 or twelve per cent are preventable. Now if the sickness could be reduced by effective sanitary work by ten per cent., the 200 physicians of Detroit city might be reduced

in that proportion, and if the 20 physicians thus thrown out of employment were employed by the city in the work of general and special sanitation it would be in the direction of true economy for the citizens.

Speaking in reference to the relation of schools he said the three most important general principles of action by the improved New York quarantine are: Isolation of the sick, disinfection of all infected material, and ventilation of everything. In order that this shall be possible in relation to the schools of a city, it is essential to have such a thorough organization of the health authority of a city that suspected cases of communicable disease shall be promptly reported to the board of health and be immediately visited, and the truth learned whether or not the case is one involving danger to the community. The health authority must be given money sufficient to have such work done with as much promptness as the fire department display in visiting the locality of a reported fire; and as the firemen remain until the fire is out, so the health department might have its officer or employee remain until the disease is over. He should watch and guard the public safety. He ought to use disinfectants skillfully, and, if need be, as freely as water, until all danger of a fresh outbreak should be prevented. He should see to it that in no way does the disease spread. Now, we quarantine all, sick and well, by closing the schools. An active health department should at all times have as perfect knowledge of the location of cases of diseases which endanger the *people* under its protection, as the fire department does of the buildings which are burning and thus endangering the *property* under its protection. With such knowledge as this the health department could furnish the teacher of every school in the city with a list of all families in which there was a person sick with a communicable disease, and if necessary an agent of the health department, or some other person, could act as sentry at each school, and persons liable to communicate disease could be kept out. As an additional precaution, even where there has been no known infection, all articles likely to convey disease into the school could be easily disinfected, if it were only a custom to do so and provision were made for such disinfection. It would be easy to have a small room at every school-house where the outer wearing apparel, etc., could be