

medical science, and the Royal Sanitary Commission was appointed in 1869, and its report, issued in 1871, was accepted by the Government of the day as a basis for legislation, and the Local Government Board was established, with Mr. Stansfeld as its first president. By the Public Health Act of 1872 medical officers of health could be appointed, though their appointment was optional in the new sanitary districts. It was not till the Public Health Act of 1875 became law that the appointment of these officers and of inspectors of nuisances in the various sanitary districts of England became compulsory. It should, however, be noted that the corporation of the city of London, and that of Liverpool, had obtained powers previously to make such appointments, and in 1847 Liverpool appointed its first medical officer of health. The first association in the public mind of the medical officer of health was with what he termed "drain-pipe hygiene." He held that one of the first steps in the urgently needed public education was the instruction in what they now knew to be the really important work of public health. This was rendered somewhat difficult because the public still clung to the old idea that everything hygienically bad was due to sewer gas, and that drains in some way or other were at the bottom of all the sanitary evils which flesh is heir to. Year by year, as sanitary legislation evolved, they noticed the conception of the work of the medical officer of health was altering, and noticed that it was becoming wider and wider in its scope. Year by year there was a closer association between it and the treatment of disease, and their association was producing a new series of professional problems which time would duly solve, but which now rendered the carrying out of their work day by day more difficult.

He had been for some time past driven to the belief that one of the most important points in connection with the work of the Medical Officer of Health was the education of the public as to what was the meaning of modern hygiene, and he had come to the belief also that this could only be done by a medical man who was a specialist in hygiene and therefore a medical officer of health. He probably did not go far wrong when he said the great practical

step of sanitary education — the medical inspection of school children — was the most important advance made of late years in the way of informing the public as to the scope of hygiene and giving them a truer idea of the work of the medical officer of health. It was no exaggeration to say that the conception of hygiene was widening day by day, and nothing was stronger as a proof of this than the introduction of such legislation as that dealing with invalidity insurance, and by that also foreshadowed dealing with Poor Law administration. But it was not only important they should endeavor to do their utmost to educate the public to the true state of affairs, it was essential they should pay attention to the professional education of the medical officer himself. Having enlarged on this subject, Dr. Hill described how he had endeavored to carry out the views he held in the administration of the county he had the honor to serve, and in conclusion remarked that full appreciation of the medical officer of health would only come in the future when he had had time and opportunities to utilize his powers for the public good, and in the meantime his most pressing work was that of educating the public in what might be done. Strong in his faith, in his work, and in himself, he must neglect no opportunity presenting itself to him of preaching the doctrine now so little understood that the happiness which may be the lot of the human race is unattainable to those who lack the blessing of health.

Ship Inspection at Nicolaieff.

The British Vice-Consul at Nicolaieff says:—"Under an arrangement made by this Vice-Consulate, which has been in existence for many years, a doctor visits British ships (1) daily in the case of those moored alongside the quay, and (2) in the case of those moored in the roads previous to coming alongside, when specially summoned, the ship providing the boat to take him off. The fee for this attendance is 10r. (£1. 1s.) for the entire duration of the ship's stay in port, whether that stay be one of days or weeks. Last year the average stay in port was eleven and a half days. It is also irrespective of the number of sick men on board. It is at the master's option to accept or refuse the ar-