would be little or no opposition to some exercise of authority, when needed, in international or inter-State quarantine. I am satisfied that a bureau organized on some such plan would fully meet all requirements of sanitation and could be enlarged so as to keep pace with the growth of the country quite as well as the Bureau of Education. Those who believe that the right way to gain the earth is to go for the whole solar system, may naturally suppose that the best way to obtain from Congress a bureau is to ask for a department. This is a matter of opinion, which I forbear to discuss. There is, however, a choice between a department and a bureau which, to my mind, vitally concerns the utility of the service. The secretary of public health would be a political officer, appointed for four years, and his subordinates would also belong to the same party. The one important qualification for office would be partisan services rendered during the preceding campaign. Those who are conversant with the customary methods of securing positions in State and municipal sanitary service in our country need no explanation of what might be expected. Now, the question is: Does the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, claiming to represent the most numerous body of scientific men in our country, stand ready to commit the interests of preventive medicine to that class of adventurers who have control, for the time being, of the national political machine? If such be its deliberate choice, then I beg to recall Æsop's fable of the frogs who asked Jupiter for a king. At first he gave them a log (likened to a national board of health), which they sat upon in scorn, until it sunk out of sight; then they asked for another, and he sent them a stork (likened to a cabinet officer), which devoured them without mercy.

On the other hand, if the choice be some plan which will put our health interests out of politics, then I advise a bureau of health modeled after the Bureau of Education, in which a commissioner may hold office under successive administrations. Let his subordinates be drawn, as far as practicable, from the three national bodies of medical offices, detailed for the special qualifications which they have shown by their works. Already the Surgeon-General of the Army has organized a school, in which medical officers receive special instruction in hygiene, and the Navy and Marine-Hospital Services will not long delay in following the example. Perhaps in time State and municipal boards of health may be authorized and feel disposed to ask the detail of officers from these corps to serve as experts in sanitary work, and thus the whole country may see their health interests emancipated from politics.

The last proposition, that of leaving national sanitation with the Marine-Hospital Service, seems not to meet the wishes of the medical profession at large, though, to my knowledge, the reason has not been openly declared. The most obvious explanation is, that this plan does not satisfy the aspirations of an army of patriots anxious to serve their country. If we must choose between a department of health and the present system, in my judgment, the change would involve great additional expense with a strong probability of poorer service. On the whole, I find no valid reason to change the views held on this subject since 1885.

Let us have a Department of Public Health!

ARGUMENTS FAVORING A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Read in the Section on State Medicine, at the Forty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, held at Atlanta, Ga., May 5-8, 1896.

BY LISTON H. MONTGOMERY, M.D.

CHICAGO, ILL.

Some of you perhaps may have views and ideas that are not entirely in accord with those of the writer. It is natural to suppose that some of us have hobbies or fads in medicine in general, the science of hygiene, or upon some branch of scientific study or research.

Emerson said, "Science surpasses the old miracles of mythology." It is with pardonable pride therefore that I offer this contribution and venture to briefly discuss this important subject, which as it appears to me, is one of the *most pressing needs of legislation that confronts us* and which our government can bestow and by so doing promote the welfare of the people of the United States.

It is a well known fact that by the acts of our National legislators during the past few years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been appropriated and expended for agricultural pursuits including that of saving the cattle and other stock products that belong especially and distinctively to the farming interests of our country, and which we as sanitarians most heartily commend. But have you considered the proposition that during the professional career of thousands of members in our profession, not one dime has been appropriated for public health matters, to save or prolong the lives of human beings, and while our Marine Hospital Service has its duties to perform, it is nevertheless very circumscribed in character, and can render very little public service to the people inland, when cholera for instance, or any other disease from a foreign country invades our shores, as was the case when this dreaded malady threatened New York city during the summer of 1892 and the year following. The disease was stamped out, or more properly speaking, what was supposed to be cholera was prevented from making inroads to the interior by the State's laws.

But we are reminded that New York State, and the City of New York has facilities for caring for an epidemic which very few other States possess.

That the United States is constantly exposed to the importation of disease from foreign countries, and subject because of the facility and rapidity of interstate transit to the rapid spread of infection and deadly germ infection of almost any city or town, is to the writer's mind something that ought not longer be tolerated by the patient people of this country.

While Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, Portland, San Francisco and our sister city Quebec, may be sufficiently provided for in this respect, there are numerous other cities on the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific sea boards that are not as fortunate nor properly protected and equipped to bar out disease that has been imported should it gain a foothold.

I think this is particularly the case with our Southern sea board cities. That they are not sufficiently prepared to combat the ravages of pestilential diseases that may invade them from some foreign country is a well-known fact to the practical sanitarian everywhere. This fact, lamentable as it is, has, to say the least, one specific cause, the absence of a department of public health. On the other hand we are well aware that the efficient health officer of the city of Charleston,

S. C., and of other cities along the southeast Atlantic and Gulf coasts are as alert and equally efficient as health officials can be, but oftentimes they are hampered in doing thorough painstaking work toward suppressing a threatened endemic or epidemic.

What has our government done for the medical profession? Congress should do all in its power to advance the scientific interests of the medical profession and promote the welfare of the people of this country. Has this been done? Governmental aid in this respect is not lacking in several other countries with which we are in daily commercial intercourse. I believe the time has fully matured, and the importance to the public welfare in the matter of sanitation and health laws has arrived for our people to require, yea demand, that we are entitled to another branch of the Federal Government and portfolio to be known as the Department of Public Health with a medical secretary at its head, to be on the same plane or parity or dignity as is accorded to the other departments in the general administration of public affairs.

The consensus of opinion in this respect is widespread as will be noted by the following illustrations. This subject, to quote as near as I can recall them the words of the late Prof. C. G. Comegys, "Is not for the promotion, welfare, or aggrandizement of the medical profession," but for *the welfare of the people* of a united country, the fairest the sun has ever shown upon, and to quote further from our late associate and worthy teacher, "Who is there that is more capable of judging of the welfare of our people, scientifically speaking, and I will add socially and morally than we who comprise the membership of this noble ASSOCIATION, representing as it does the hundred and twenty odd thousand physicians in the United States?"

Why need our government wait for a threatened invasion or approach from Europe or other foreign land of some specific form of deadly germ or disease infection?

Why wait for the advent of smallpox from Mexico, or yellow fever from the Spanish colony or States of South America, or the arrival on our border of some poor indigent immigrant sick nigh unto death with some form of pestilential disease, or until the germs of an infectious or contagious character have already made their appearance?

But some wiseacre (not a member of our profession) will say: Oh well, these cases will be quarantined or the maritime quarantine system will take care of them, etc. Scarcely two weeks ago the utter failure of this method was demonstrated at the city of Baltimore, Md., when there arrived several hundred immigrants at that port who had been exposed to smallpox or varioloid on board the steamship that brought them. The poor sick immigrant was detained, but the balance were allowed to pass through and take up their abode at their place of destination, many of them within three days arriving at Chicago, Ill.

While the maritime quarantine service does very well indeed and is a most useful system so far as it goes, yet it has no control in the inland and its power of authority is limited. Its system does not include all the ways and means of carrying into effect efficient prophylactic measures on a thoroughly scientific basis as should be done by scientific preventive medicine and thorough bacteriologic investigation beyond the few cities enumerated above. This system has no authority to carry out the enforcement where necessary of sanitary regulations tending to prevent or

abate the spread of epidemic or pestilential diseases beyond the seaport places it has found lodgment and where it may be equipped for this purpose.

At the Pan American Medical Congress, the first congress of this kind ever held in the United States, which convened in the city of Washington, D. C., in September 1893 under the auspices of our Government, this subject was critically and thoroughly discussed in all its phases, heartily concurred in, and reported in favor of such a Department, with a cabinet minister at its head.

The Chicago Medical Society having a membership now of upward of 750 members as early as the summer of 1884 at the instance of the writer had a committee appointed consisting of seven of the most able sanitarians of that city, including the Commissioner of Health to devise and formulate a plan to urge the importance of National legislation upon this subject.

The committee submitted its report in September following and it was unanimously adopted.

The American Public Health Association at several of its annual meetings has heartily and unanimously concurred in this measure, and has appointed its special committee to confer with a similar committee of this ASSOCIATION to devise the best ways and means toward establishing this *sine qua non*, and much is hoped for in this direction from this influential body at its coming meeting at Buffalo, N. Y., next September.

Various State, county, and municipal medical societies in a number of portions of the Union have within the past two or three years unanimously approved and adopted resolutions to this effect, and have heartily approved the bill now before Congress prepared by the special committee of this ASSOCIATION, to establish a department of public health.

STATE RIGHTS AND INTERFERENCE WITH STATE LAWS.

The possibility of interference with inter-state authority I think is a subject too mythical indeed to require discussion.

Section 2 of our bill provides for the coöperation of State and municipal health authorities, hence no obstacle can supervene in the matter of inter-state or municipal boards of health and all will be of the most harmonious advisory nature and unanimity in character, with the one main object in view, the advancement and improvement in the welfare of the American people, the prolongation of human life, the physical and mental development of our citizens, and I might go farther by saying, the evolution of the human race by the diffusion and promulgation of scientific facts and treatises compiled from the best literature prepared by the most thorough scientific painstaking sanitarians of our country, thus promoting the physical health of our people and a correspondingly cultured intellectuality.

The following questions have doubtless been proposed to some of you already: Is there a degenerative tendency in our advancing civilization, in these days of the new woman, hypnotism, bicycles, church affairs, etc., or is there a tendency for the rich of our Nation attaining a premature old age? Is insomnia, hypochondria, hysteria, dipsomania, suicide, insanity and cognate diseases including diseases of a tubercular nature on the increase?

I would answer in a general way. In certain geologic sections of our Union and among a certain class, most certainly this is true. We may ask our-

selves then, what is the cause of this vital or mental change?

The miscellaneous statistics on these and kindred subjects to which I have had access, imperfectly as they are collated, unmistakably prove this.

If the government could see its way to rise to the dignity of having a department of public health and a medical secretary a man of well known scientific attainments, as other nations have, statistics on this point could be made more reliable and valuable scientific accurate investigation could be carried on in a methodic manner from the center or fountain head.

In these days of specialism, the surgeon and the specialist receive for their professional services a fee which to my mind is greater and out of all proportion compared to that which the sanitarian or general practicing physician usually receives, or which he is justly entitled to.

While many of the ailments suffered by man are due to germs, morbid or toxic products or agents entering the system whether from food in any form, drinking water of polluted wells, rivers, lakes, etc., or germs of contagious nature, that enter the human economy through a wound, whether there be syphilitic, puerperal, tubercular, or sepsis due to other causes. The sanitarians of the medical profession in renewing their endeavors toward bringing about what this paper has for its object again manifest their unselfishness in exerting their influence in the matter of a department of public health.

What we do ask after this proposed branch of our government has been established, is that it shall have equal dignity and rank with other branches of the government, and the secretary be a member of the Cabinet. In order to carry out our undertaking to a successful conclusion we must do so intelligently. We must be public spirited and with earnest zeal enlist with renewed effort the united profession of our country.

The reports of the special committee appointed by the ASSOCIATION in 1891 has submitted its report annually since, viz., at Detroit in 1892, Milwaukee in 1893, San Francisco in 1894, one year ago at Baltimore. Each year its deliberations have been unanimously approved and adopted, all of which is very gratifying to the committee and tends to show that the committee is not, nor at any time has it been remiss in the performance of its duties.

But our ASSOCIATION and our profession must do something more than adopt resolutions, all of which are good enough in their way. We must encourage the profession everywhere, and by concerted action urge upon Congress the necessity of this measure. That the matter has been successfully carried on thus far I think no one will deny. But the profession must not become apathetic. If our Eastern confrères should hold different views, let us persuade them to unite with us, for, I am convinced after careful observation and study, that practically the entire western, middle and southern members of our profession are a unit and endorse the bill now before Congress which was prepared by the committee of the AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION having this matter in charge.

With this strong force united, and our eastern professional friends with us, with renewed efforts on our part and the combined support of the medical journals and newspapers, shall we not be able to convince our friends in both branches of Congress of the neces-

sity of this urgent and needed legislation, for certainly our opinions on this topic are equally as valuable to public welfare, hygiene, and health as are those who have views upon finance, the tariff, the judiciary, theologic and ecclesiastic affairs, etc. The profession is too modest to claim more than this.

In reviewing the Constitution of our country, submitted Sept. 17, 1787, and which went into effect in 1788, I find in the first or opening sentence the following lines:

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America," etc.

Mark the words in the above clause—"establish justice," "promote the general welfare," "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Is not this a sufficiently meritorious reason as provided in our Constitution to secure that which will prove to be a blessing to ourselves and posterity? And if so, are we not several years behind the times in the matter of this proposed department?

Is not the well known and oft-quoted maxim which I will paraphrase, "*Salus populi suprema est lex*," a sufficient reason? Is it not sufficient to know that, for instance, where an epidemic of smallpox prevails, accurate information can not be obtained by neighboring States or municipal boards of health from the medical officer in charge, or commissioner of health regarding said epidemic by his refusal to promulgate information desired when requested to do so?

All the foregoing illustrations are facts and matters of history, and not hypothetical queries, specific instances of which can be furnished if needed. All of which prove that Congress is in duty bound to provide this additional department.

IT SHOULD BE AN IDEAL DEPARTMENT.

To have this proposed department an ideal and efficient one, it should be under the direct and personal supervision of the medical secretary, who should not only be a graduate of a medical school, and a man of letters, but a thorough sanitarian in all that this word implies, as well as possess an acquaintance with the requirements and needs of our own beloved country as well as those of foreign lands.

Genuine civil service reform should prevail in said department. The obliteration of the spoils system will mean a higher order of men. A spirit of *entente cordiale* will exist between all branches and schools of medicine and an *esprit du corps* will prevail also between the department, its secretary, and State and municipal boards of health everywhere.

This department should have control over the poor and unfortunate immigrants that land upon our shores. An instance which came under my observation recently may aptly serve as an illustration. During the first and second weeks in April about 17,000 Italian immigrants arrived in New York. On April 17 five of these unhappy and unfortunate people were arrested by the police of Chicago and placed in the police station, charged with vagrancy and begging on the streets. These poor unfortunate aliens had left their native country scarcely four weeks previously. This is but a single instance out of scores of analogous cases that came under my personal

observation during the past winter and spring months as an attaché of the Chicago Health Department. So that well may we ask what kind of citizens are we importing now? I am thoroughly convinced that a certain class of the illiterate and poorer classes of immigrants should be prohibited from landing on our shores—only to become a burden to us instead of a benefit to our nation.

NATIONAL VACCINE FARM, BACTERIOLOGIC
LABORATORY, ETC.

Regarding this, and what might be regarded as kindred subdivisions of my topic, in the projection of sanitary improvements, etc., I will not attempt to discuss nor more than mention that they should be under the scientific observation of this department.

In concluding this imperfectly prepared paper, permit me to request of you to urge upon your representatives in Congress, your governors and others, in justice to the welfare of the people, in the name of science and humanity, the necessities and needs of our claim: That the medical profession and State medicine is broad and philanthropic and has made great strides and progress within recent years; that our medical representative or secretary will be a man of culture and intellect and *bon camaraderie*, thus assuring the profession and the world that our claim was not of the *ignis fatuus* kind; that at some future time the United States will have an ideal department of health with influence that shall be unsurpassed, will be our reward, for which posterity will bless us is my firm and sincere belief.

STATE MEDICINE IN PENNSYLVANIA AND HOW WE MAY INCREASE ITS EFFICIENCY.

Read in the Section on State Medicine, at the Forty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association held at Atlanta, Ga., May 5-8, 1896.

BY EUGENE O. BARDWELL, A.M., M.D.

Health Officer of Emporium, Pa., County Medical Inspector to the State Board of Health of Pennsylvania, Fellow of the American Academy of Medicine, Vice-President of the West Branch Medical Association, etc.
EMPORIUM, PA.

The State Board of Health and Vital Statistics of Pennsylvania was organized in June, 1885, so that its existence covers a period of a little less than eleven years. The appropriation made for it on its natal day called for \$5,000 per year, and the appropriation made ten years later was for \$6,000 per year, so you may easily judge that there has been no great development of cerebral matter in the legislature of our good Keystone State during the past ten years. Out of this enormous sum \$2,000 is paid to the secretary and executive officer of the board. I understand that the clerk of the board receives \$1,500 per year, and this leaves the munificent sum of \$2,500, which according to the terms of the act is to be expended, or so much of it as may be necessary, for postage, telegrams, express charges, rent, incidental office expenses, traveling and other necessary expenses of the members and secretary of the board, and for sanitary inspections, analyses and protection of water supplies, and for scientific investigations. Think of it, \$2,500! Sanitary inspections, protection of water supplies, analyses, scientific investigations; and be sure to return an unexpended balance!

Pennsylvania in point of population is the second State in the Union. One of the oldest States. The

Keystone? Notwithstanding the parsimoniousness of our legislature in regard to appropriations for the protection of the public health, I am happy to be able to say that we have, as far as they go, as good legislative enactments for the control of contagious and infectious diseases and the regulation of health boards and all matters pertaining to the public health as could well be devised. In that respect nearly every session since 1885 has seen some improvement, chiefly through the efforts of one man, Benjamin Lee, M.D., to whose able and untiring work as secretary and executive officer of the State Board of Health, we primarily owe all our laws for the intelligent supervision and protection of the public health. To Dr. Benjamin Lee the State of Pennsylvania owes a debt she can never repay. But the people do not appear to appreciate the fact that to this one man all credit is due that the great State of Pennsylvania has, in sanitary matters, emerged from a condition akin to barbarism. Eternal vigilance, however, is necessary to prevent the repeal of our health laws. At every session of our legislature some learned member from Squeedunk, Daguscahonda or elsewhere will arise in his place with the air of a Solon, pull the fringe of whisker under his chin meditatively, and present a bill which, if passed, would destroy the result of the labor of years; labor, too, which has been done gratuitously without hope of reward, except such as comes through a man's inner consciousness of duty done. We have a large number of boards of health in small towns or boroughs, and the effectiveness of these boards is slowly increasing each year. The public is very slowly awakening to a knowledge of the utility of health boards and their work, but we are still woefully behind the times in many portions of the State. We have no boards of health in townships, although there is a total of 1,511 townships in the State. Now, such a state of affairs is a great drawback, and renders nugatory, to a certain extent, much of the effort put forth in towns and boroughs. In order to secure the best results every township should have its board of health and health officers; but our sapient legislature, having several times refused to legalize such boards, our State Board has, as a make-shift, appointed deputy inspectors who receive no pay, except when ordered by the State Board to investigate nuisances. One such inspector is appointed in each county, and when we consider the fact that many counties contain thirty, forty or more townships, it is easy to comprehend that such officer, serving without compensation, will not be able to exercise a very close or valuable supervision over sanitary affairs, the more so as the people are likely to look upon him as an outsider and give him no aid whatever. The cause of the apathy of the people in the matter is not general ignorance; it is ignorance on this one subject. The public control of matters pertaining to the health of communities is an idea comparatively new, and when it runs against that fetich of the American people, "personal liberty," it experiences a severe shock. Now how can we give an impetus to the dissemination of knowledge of this subject? To my mind the answer is easy and the result certain. Compel the State to pay for the service. It is entirely too much to ask men to serve on health boards for love of the people who abuse them. It has been my experience in the practice of medicine, that the people who pay promptly are my best friends in other ways. Nine times out of ten when a physician is stabbed in the