"6. The out-of-the-state milk will be subject to the same inspection as Massachusetts milk, thus securing uniformity of treatment and protecting Massachusetts producers from the unfair competition of uninspected out-of-the-state milk which exists to-day.

"7. This is a measure of preventive medicine. It will reduce to a minimum the possibilities of milk-borne epidemics of typhoid fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria, etc., and, even more important, the infant deaths from unclean milk."

Correspondence.

A NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

CHICAGO, Sept. 16, 1911.

Mr. Editor: I enclose a clipping from the Chicago Tribune relating to the establishment of a department of public health therein.

Its field is the stirring of public interest in right living. You know that many things which you have seen should be done could not be done because people generally did not know about them or were not interested in them.

I hope that we can have your cordial aid and we in turn stand willing to aid in popularizing all health movements.

Very truly yours,

W. A. EVANS, M.D.

"Almost 1% of the children born alive in Chicago die before they get to be one day old.

"Almost 3% die before they are seven days old.

"At this time we are not discussing the harm which this does. We are, rather, concerned with the reason for it. When a baby dies before it is a week old it has had a very bad inheritance, the mother has been very poorly cared for in the later months of pregnancy, or very poor care was given during pregnancy.

"Here are three problems, each of immense importance, and no one of which is going to be corrected unless powerful agencies are set to work and kept at work until results follow.

"In 1910, in Chicago, 6,841 babies died who were less than one year of age, 1,746 between one and two and 737 between two and three, or 9,324 children under three years of age. In a later paper we will discuss the harm which this does; we are now concerned with the cause.

"The children of the well-to-do practically never die from bowel trouble in Chicago. The cause is operating, therefore, almost exclusively among the people who are not wealthy. There are many causes. The children are being improperly fed; usually the babies are being overfed during the hot months. The milk which they get is not fit for babies to drink. It is true that most of them who drink it live. But when we add to those who die those who get sick and recover, the proportion is large enough to warrant the statement made.

"Baby's milk should be less than twenty-four hours old, scrupulously clean, always below 50° in temperature, and free from all forms of contagion. We are a long way from that now. To bring about this result will require a great deal of work. It will not come about automatically.

"The time has come to move for the elimination of diphtheria. All of the tools are ready. The movement should be launched. For a few years the results will be discouraging, but, persisted in, diphtheria in less than a quarter of a century can be put where smallpox now is. There will be a year or two of apparent increase of the disease; then a material improvement; then a period of satisfaction with existing condition, followed by a slipping backward and so on. Finally the disease will come intermittently, even in large northern cities, and the periods of freedom will lengthen. But this is not coming unless the fight for it is made.

"Consumption is decreasing in cities. Practically nothing is being done in the country. It is still true that

a consumptive passing away usually leaves more than one member of his family infected.

"The pneumonia situation is not improving. We are in great need of help. The mortality from the bad air diseases, taken collectively, shows a slight gain. The people are ventilating somewhat better. But men will still stay in badly ventilated workshops, offices, halls and cars. We have never heard of a strike on a given place because the ventilation was bad and the consequent colds, coughs, pneumonia and consumption ate up all the wages of the men.

"The fresh air movement must be pushed, and pushed hard.

"We are now satisfied with conditions which cause 10,000 deaths a year in Chicago — and in addition there is a great deal of disabling illness which does not result in death. Should we stop, can we stop, until the general discontent brings competent action?

"Then there is the outside air begrimed with smoke and befouled with dust. We go on year by year tolerating it, mildly objecting, but with no concert of purpose between the objectors.

"There should be no blind men, no men with crooked backs or with stiff knees. Under more rational living the average efficiency of the human unit should be 10% higher than it is. Those who are in contact with this work know that an estimate of 10% gain in efficiency is far too low, but an understatement just now is better than an overstatement."

STATISTICS OF CHOLERA IN PALERMO.

PALERMO, Sept. 4, 1911.

Mr. Editor: Presuming that it may be of interest to you to have some reliable data of the recent cholera visitation in Palermo this year, I beg to send you enclosed an exact statistics of the course of the epidemic, say from the 1st of June to the 31st of August, ult.

June.	Number of cases.	Deaths.	July.	Number of cases.	Deaths.	August.	Number of cases.	Deaths.	August.	Total deaths.	Under ten years of age.	Deaths by cholera.
1	1	—	1	48	12	1	26	7	22	36	?	—
2	1	—	2	46	17	2	28	5	23	24	"	2
3	1	—	3	56	19	3	16	6	24	31	"	6
4	1	1	4	46	24	4	22	2	25	41	"	1
5	—	—	5	61	27	5	39	3	26	29	15	3
6	4	3	6	52	29	6	16	7	27	22	11	1
7	2	—	7	47	12	7	28	6	28	24	12	3
8	9	4	8	55	14	8	20	8	29	32	17	3
9	12	5	9	50	4	9	24	2	30	20	9	2
10	13	6	10	55	6	10	15	1	31	24	11	—
11	9	6	11	55	5	11	29	5				
12	11	3	12	29	3	12	19	4				
13	22	11	13	33	8	13	19	7				
14	33	22	14	41	18	14	19	2				
15	26	18	15	34	12	15	18	2				
16	26	8	16	32	12	16	19	1				
17	31	18	17	24	2	17	20	3				
18	38	18	18	45	14	18	14	1				
19	37	20	19	26	7	19	14	3				
20	44	24	20	19	7	20	21	1				
21	34	19	21	23	3	21	19	5				
22	42	29	22	23	8	22	10	—				
23	59	31	23	23	8	23	3	2				
24	60	31	24	32	7	24	16	6				
25	43	17	25	25	8	25	8	1				
26	44	18	26	25	4	26	9	3				
27	39	26	27	19	4	27	1	1				
28	47	20	28	29	8	28	14	3				
29	39	18	29	24	7	29	11	3				
30	44	17	30	22	3	30	10	2				
31			31	33	5	31	4	—				

You will be able to form some idea from the said statistics of the energetic work done by the sanitary authorities in combating the disease. In the first week there resulted from a total of 60 cases, 31 deaths, and four weeks later these numbers had fallen away to 31 cases and only 7 deaths.

I beg to annex, further, a copy of the official municipal statistics of deaths registered in the last ten days, effectively proving that the sanitary conditions of Palermo, a town of 350,000 inhabitants, are satisfactory. These last six days, for instance, there has been a medium mortality of only 25, of which one half represented children under six years of age. I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. WEINEN,

*General Secretary in the Municipality of Palermo
of the Association of the Forestry Movement.*

DR. O. W. HOLMES AS A TEACHER OF ANATOMY.

ASTICOU, ME., Sept. 15, 1911.

Mr. Editor: In an article on the late Prof. Thomas Dwight printed in the *Transcript* of Sept. 9, there is a distinct intimation that Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes was an incompetent teacher of anatomy and organizer of an anatomical department, for it says that Dr. Dwight's accession "meant the transition from a longish reign of 'incapacity tempered with epigrams,'" and that the department of anatomy soon felt "a firmer hand at the wheel."

Without wishing to detract in the least from Dr. Dwight's great merits as a teacher and organizer, I think it just to testify that Dr. Holmes was also, and earlier, a learned, accurate and stimulating teacher of human anatomy; that he was accustomed to illustrate his dry subject with sparkling wit and humor; that he spared no expense for books, plates and prints with which to illustrate his subject; and that he inspired a series of admirable prosectors and demonstrators to make the best possible dissections to illustrate from the human body the lesson of each day.

From about the first of November to about the first of March it was Dr. Holmes's chief occupation to give five lectures a week on human anatomy at the Harvard Medical School, and to direct the work of his paid demonstrators and his volunteer assistants. During the thirty-five years that Dr. Holmes was professor of anatomy, eight competent men served him as demonstrators, among whom Richard Manning Hodges, David Williams Cheever, Charles Burnham Porter and Henry H. A. Beach later became highly distinguished as surgeons.

It was Dr. Holmes who first in this country succeeded in providing a large class with opportunities to use the microscope in the study of anatomy. His was the day of small things in medical teaching. The one building of the Harvard Medical School was inadequate for its uses. The money provided for illustrative purposes was scanty, and the method of giving instruction was the lecture method, the worst possible for natural history subjects, such as all medical subjects are. It was Dr. Holmes, however, that for many years maintained and supervised the only laboratory in the medical school, namely, the dissecting room.

The fame of Dr. Holmes as an author has eclipsed his fame as a teacher of anatomy, but the facts remain that he was an admirable teacher of this difficult subject which lies at the foundation of all medical teaching and practice, and that he did all his work as teacher and director of a laboratory with exactitude and success.

From 1869 to 1882 I had an intimate knowledge of Dr. Holmes's whole relation to the Harvard Medical School, and from 1856 to 1869 I heard much about it.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES W. ELIOT.

SOCIETY NOTICE.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY.—The fall meeting will be held in Sprague Hall, Medical Library, Boston, on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1911, at 2 o'clock. The following papers will be read and discussed: 1. "Thymus Death," Prof. Timothy

Leary, Medical Examiner, of Boston. 2. "The Value of the View," Thomas M. Durell, M.D., Medical Examiner, of Somerville. 3. "The Restelli Murders," Fred E. Jones, M.D., Medical Examiner, of Quincy.

OLIVER H. HOWE, M.D.,
Recording Secretary.

COHASSET, Sept. 25, 1911.

RECENT DEATHS.

DR. JAMES CURTIS HEPBURN, who died on Sept. 21 at East Orange, N. J., was born at Milton, Pa., on March 13, 1815. He received the degree of A.B. from Princeton in 1832 and that of M.D. from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1836. At the time of his death he was the oldest alumnus of Princeton. He was a pioneer missionary in China and Japan. His first journey to the Orient followed his marriage, in 1840, to a daughter of Governor Leete, of Connecticut, and he remained at Amoy in China until 1846. On account of his wife's health he then returned to America, and, having settled in New York, he built up a lucrative practice there. During his residence in New York three of his four sons died, and in 1859 Dr. and Mrs. Hepburn went to Japan, then opened up by Commodore Perry, and served there under the direction of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions until 1892. The doctor assisted in the first translation of the Bible into Japanese and issued the first Japanese-English dictionary, and Mrs. Hepburn opened the first school for girls in Japan. On his ninetieth birthday Dr. Hepburn received the decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan, in acknowledgment of his distinguished services in that country. His wife died in 1906.

DR. JOHN SCOTT MASON, of Saco, Me., who died on Sept. 22 in Boston, was born on July 13, 1859. He received the degree of D.M.D. from Harvard in 1880, and since that time had practiced his profession in Saco.

DR. GEORGE TITUS HOWLAND, who died on Sept. 24 at Norwich, Conn., was born in Tivoli, N. Y. He was a Yale graduate, but received his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. He had practiced in Washington, D. C., and in Hannover, Germany.

DR. LEWIS E. B. SANBORN, who died on Sept. 24 at Machiasport, Me., was born there in 1832. He served throughout the Civil War as a member of the Hospital Corps of the Second Maine Volunteers. Subsequently he practiced medicine in New York City, and from 1879 to 1908 was deputy health officer of that port.

RECORD OF MORTALITY

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, SEPT. 9, 1911.

CITIES.			CITIES.		
	Reported deaths in each.	Deaths under five years.		Reported deaths in each.	Deaths under five years.
New York.....	—	—	Waltham.....	6	—
Chicago.....	546	194	Brookline.....	2	—
Philadelphia.....	—	—	Chicopee.....	—	2
St. Louis.....	—	—	Gloucester.....	3	1
Baltimore.....	—	—	Medford.....	8	—
Cleveland.....	—	—	North Adams....	10	2
Buffalo.....	—	—	Northampton....	8	0
Pittsburg.....	—	—	Beverly.....	7	1
Cincinnati.....	—	—	Revere.....	9	3
Milwaukee.....	—	—	Leominster.....	4	2
Washington.....	—	—	Attleboro.....	4	1
Providence.....	—	—	Westfield.....	5	1
Boston.....	182	60	Peabody.....	—	—
Worcester.....	36	9	Melrose.....	3	—
Fall River.....	53	34	Hyde Park.....	2	—
Lowell.....	26	10	Woburn.....	0	—
Cambridge.....	19	6	Newburyport....	3	1
New Bedford....	33	16	Gardner.....	5	1
Lynn.....	24	8	Marlboro.....	4	1
Springfield.....	26	8	Clinton.....	3	—
Lawrence.....	24	15	Milford.....	—	—
Somerville.....	—	—	Adams.....	3	1
Holyoke.....	19	14	Framingham.....	—	—
Brockton.....	4	0	Weymouth.....	—	—
Malden.....	11	3	Watertown.....	3	0
Haverhill.....	9	1	Southbridge.....	0	—
Salem.....	15	5	Plymouth.....	—	—
Newton.....	12	3	Webster.....	2	2
Fitchburg.....	—	—	Methuen.....	—	—
Taunton.....	19	5	Wakefield.....	2	2
Everett.....	10	5	Arlington.....	1	—
Quincy.....	—	—	Greenfield.....	—	—
Chelsea.....	9	6	Winthrop.....	0	—
Pittsfield.....	15	7			