

ern homes, will not fail to take into consideration the means adopted for public health protection, and the element of an active board of health, with professional sanitarians doing the work, will and should weigh heavily in making their decisions.

## LOUISIANA AND PATENT MEDICINES

The patent medicine people may fool all of us some of the time and some of us all the time, but that they cannot fool all of us all of the time is shown by the action of the Louisiana legislature, June 16, 1915.

By a concurrent resolution, signed by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and the Speaker of the House approving, "The campaign of the Louisiana State Board of Health, as conducted by Dr. Oscar Dowling, president, to rid the state of Louisiana of the pernicious patent nostrums so widely advertised and sold under misleading and fraudulent pretenses as to curative properties," they demonstrated their sympathy with modern medical thought.

These resolutions are now "Act 36," and so recorded in the archives of the state. It takes hard and persistent work to accomplish the feat of swinging a state legislature to the enthusiastic support of its board of health. Perhaps the approval of the Louisiana Press Association, as expressed at its New Orleans meeting in 1914, and at its Monroe meeting in June, 1915, may have influenced the lawmakers, for they have a profound respect for the opinions of the press. Here is what the Press Association did: At its meeting in New Orleans in 1914 it passed a resolution pledging its members to "rigidly exclude from their papers all questionable advertising, including fake cancer cures, wildcat mining schemes, valueless patent medicines and the like." At the Monroe meeting, June 10, 1915, they reaffirmed these resolutions and also requested that the State Board of Health furnish each member with a list of medicines that should be barred from their columns.

Thus Dr. Dowling has at his command two powerful levers with which to enforce the stringent laws previously passed by the Louisiana legislature controlling the advertisement and sale of proprietary medicines in that state. It takes a *man* to handle those levers, but Dr. Dowling will prove equal to the task. When all the other states have followed the example of Louisiana by providing their boards of health with adequate authority and competent men to execute it, the people of this country will have achieved an emancipation from an incubus of fraud and harmful deception so great as to challenge belief.

## HEALTH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

It has been suggested that THE SOUTHERN MEDICAL JOURNAL is devoting too much space to the discussion of public health and sanitation, but such is not the opinion of the majority of its friends and supporters. Considering public health the most valuable asset of the people, the editors will continue to keep the subject before the minds of Southern doctors for the sake of all the people of the matchless Southland. One of the most useful agents favoring public health and sanitation is the periodical use of Christian pulpits by physicians.

Health Sunday is a new and wonderful institution. On that day the people in hundreds of cities and towns receive instructions from their ablest physicians as to how to preserve their health against the assaults of microbic invasion, and hear what are the consequences of their neglect of the rules of cleanliness. Hundreds of our most worthy citizens are made to realize not only the necessity but the profitableness of observing the sanitary regulations that are promulgated by medical men, men who are specially skilled in all the elements of sanitation and many of whom devote their entire time to its work. The laity and the medical profession have shown a readiness to meet each other for these