The Intelligencer.

WHEELING, W. VA., DECEMBER 9, 1885.

ADDRESS OF DR. JAMES E. REEVES, OF WHEELING,

President of the American Public Health Association, at Willard's Hall, Washington, D. C., Tuesday Evening, December 8, 1885.

GENTLEMEN AND FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION:—By your kindly suffrages I have been clothed temporarily with the highest honor that can be conferred by sanitary workers in the United States, and I confess that I have reached the duties and exercises of this our thirteenth annual meeting, and the culmination of my official privilege and distinction, with many misgivings as to my ability to meet the full measure of your reasonable expectations.

A man, it is true, may possess thoughts, *sentiments, opinions, attachments*; he may be animated by an ardent desire to recommend these to the belief, or to the approbation of others; but in order to recommend sentiments and opinions with success, it is indispensible that he shall be able to command those easy and natural graces, those soft, insinuating arts of tone, of gesture, of expression, which must either be the gratuitous endowment of nature, or the result of a long course of assiduous application and practice.

Surely a speaker is laboring under many disadvantages who has to encounter, on the one hand, all the negative influences which result from the want of a free and frequent intercourse with the world, from the want of familiar acquaintance with the current terms and popular phrases—those silken approaches and passages to the heart by which the convictions of man are created or confirmed, while on the other hand, he must encounter all the positive influences which result from a retired and silent life. Besides all this, you will admit that our profoundest feelings are always the most difficult to communicate, yet, at this hour and in the presence of this large assembly of wise and good men who have come up from the North, the South, the East, and the West—representing not only hundreds of cities and large towns in this great country of ours, but also the Canadas—bringing with them, to grace this auspicious meeting at the Capitol of the Nation priceless knowledge how to increase the duration and value of human life and elevate humanity to the highest standard of physical, mental and moral perfection, I invite your attention to subjects which have encouraged the most industrious energies of my life namely the Public Health, and, to that end, the use *fulness* and welfare of the American Public Health Association whose good name and honor have been committed to our care and, I trust it will not be in vain if I bespeak your kind indulgence while I talk of matters which I have had so much at heart for the last fifteen years.

The success of our meetings has always largely depended upon the well-directed energies of the local committees of arrangements, and I am sure every member of the association present will join me in heartily extending to Dr. Smith Townshend, chairman, and his distinguished associates on the local committee many, many thanks for the excellent and attractive programme they have so liberally provided for our reception and entertainment during the hours of recess. It promises, indeed, assures a veritable "feast of reason and flow-of-soul," and again it will be said, and justly, that "the medical profession and the city authorities of Washington never do things halfway."

But our greetings and congratulations are not unmixed with sorrow, for they link us closely with "the valley of the shadow of death." A great statesman, Thomas A. Hendricks, the Vice-President of the United States—a great and good man in every phase of his life—has been suddenly and unexpectedly cut down from among the living; and the knell of the sorrowful tidings on the evening before Thanksgiving, cast a shadow over the hearthstones of millions of his countrymen. And this is not all of the sadness which on this occasion *possesses our hearts. Since the* last meeting six master workmen in the vineyard of sanitary science, of beautiful private character and solid professional attainments have been called off from labor to refreshment, and I am filled with grief almost too full for utterance, when I think of the loss this association has sustained by the death of J. G. Thomas, of Savannah; F. W. Hatch, of Sacramento; Thomas L. Neal, of Dayton; John J. Speed, of Louisville; Richard McSherry, of Baltimore, and Thad M. Stevens, of Indianapolis. These dear names will never be forgotten, for they are indissolubly connected with the history of sanitary progress in the United States. Having made their last offerings at the shrine of the public health, they then "took their bur den for a pillow, and laid down by the wayside to sleep that dreamless sleep that wakes in a glorious immortality! Peace, peace, to their precious ashes. The terrible question that irresistibly presents itself, who of us shall be called next? cannot be answered. Let us therefore, be admonished by the uncertainty of life, and "work while it is called-day for the night cometh when no man can work."

Every such an assembly as this moves forward another day's journey the Ark of the Sanitary Covenant, and humanity is hedged and made happier thereby. A body so numerous as the one here assembled, which extends its action and influence over every part of the national domain, and is intimately connected with all the interests of society, cannot meet to deliberate on its usefulness, its interests, and its dignity, without making its impress upon the great heart of society.

The ruling character of the Nineteenth century is the tendency to perfecting the *physical, intellectual* and moral welfare of man. In every civilized and progressive country sciences, arts, private and general industry, everything, in fact, tends toward this end; everyone is carried forward by this general movement of advance, men as well as governments. And what are the obligations of organized government to its citizens concerning the security of the public health?

It would be easy to present examples from the history of republics which have risen and passed away in distant lands and in different ages, in proof of the endemic agency of bad government, and as a warning to the rulers of our own dear land where a new social experiment is in progress, the fairest, the freest, the most hopeful of any upon which the sun has diffused his life-giving radiance. And what are the elements of this beauty, this freedom, this bright anticipation? The answer is, our own hallowed institutions, and sooner and far more important questions would immediately follow—how shall they be preserved?

Hygeia has been called the handmaid of liberty; and in illustration of this position historic examples could be furnished pointing out the diminished population, decay of agriculture and commerce, and increase and fatality of diseases, which ensued on the downfall of republics. Knowledge of changes of this nature which followed the destruction of the republics of Etruria and Magna Græcia by Rome, and then noting those manifested when the latter abandoned the republican for the imperial and despotic government, should be embraced in the common school education of every boy and girl in the United States. In subsequent times, what a contrast between the face of the country, as described by Muratori, when it has been overrun by the barbarians of the north, with that in a later age when Christian civilization and liberty gave impetus to agriculture and commerce by imparting comparative security to the people who embarked in such industry and adventure. The region now called Turkey in Europe, Greece and Asia Minor, exhibits a living and incontrovertible testimony in support of the same argument.

In these days of political struggle and divergent interests, we hear much of the various means for the advancement and enjoyment of the agricultural, the manufacturing, the commercial, and many other interests and importances, including political rights. Each of these interests claims for itself the benefits of a strong central government, by opposing political parties at the helm, and thereby become the paramount question for their advocacy in each state and national; and correctly so, for where the interests of the people are largely identified it is usually found that the government is better for good or evil, in proportion as these interests prevail. Commerce and agriculture are important, for in exchange their products are to be distributed among the people, and in return they are to be supplied with the necessaries and comforts of life. But of what more importance is any other interest, either in importance or extent, than that of general and individual health? Of what early machine in the present state of health and life? No matter what the labor, handicraft or industrial art which is engaged, not one productive force and every mode of exhausting individual energy and contributing to these vital objects of concentration is and must be, accordingly, subordinate both individually and collectively to the possession of health. Applying the estimate made by statisticians of the financial value of the life of a man, able-bodied, industrious man, at a sum hundred dollars; and the average cash value of each man, woman, and child, at about twelve years of age, at one thousand dollars, we then have some conception of the financial value of the life of each citizen, and the loss to the wealth of the country in unproductive labor from sickness and death from preventable diseases!

It needs, therefore, no labored argument to prove that it should be the first duty of the government, both State and National, to protect the public health by legal statutes based upon the knowledge that sanitarians have gained by their self-sacrificing and humane industries and seen broadcast without price among the people, and to see that all the members of society are benefitted by it. Indeed, every measure which relates to the improvement of the sanitary condition of the people generally, deserves the earnest attention of statesmen and the favor and hearty support of the National Government. Truly, sanitary science investigates the wants of humanity and holds within its broad scope society in general. Human vicissitudes meet it all times and places, and everywhere they find it prepared to give succor equal to the present emergency.

Statistical researches have discovered two extremely important facts—namely, that the mean duration of human life is generally less than the three score years and ten commonly allotted as the term of man's existence, but that, on the other hand, communities have it in their power to diminish the causes which produce sickness and premature death, and it has been made evident that in consequence of the wise employment of that power during the last century, the average duration of human life is slowly but progressively on the increase.

A comparison of the wise and liberal provision made by some of the European powers for the promotion of sanitary science, and for enforcing its life-saving and wealth-producing precepts among all classes of the people, with too spasmodic, unreliable and inefficient legislation on the same subject in this rich and great country of ours, is, to say the least, not flattering to our national pride. Yet, withal, it must be acknowledged that the National Legislature is liberal in many matters. *In the exercise* of its supreme authority on land or sea, it is not only utilitarian, but really scientific and very sympathetic. Unfortunately, however, protection of the citizen from preventable diseases, which distroy thousands of lives annually, the cash-value of which amounts to millions, seems to be no part of the national care or responsibility.

From the Agricultural Department the Commissioner may send our distinguished fellow, Dr. Salmon, into any part of the United States to investigate an outbreak of disease among horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, chickens, geese and ducks—if there should be no demurrer of States' *Rights*?—and he may order an inquiry to be made concerning the blight of the crops, the potato-rot for example; and the best method of housing and making healthy and productive honey bees; but what *great* have we which is charged with the humane duty of investigating the causes of diseases among men, women and children?

The National Government has been thoughtful and liberal in establishing a Department of Education, and the Commissioner—General Eaton—has so wisely and admirably directed the interests committed to his care, that, hand in hand with State Superintendents of the Public School system, under his leadership the whole Nation has been thoroughly awakened to the importance of the mental culture of the citizen; but, unfortunately, at the same time, greatly to the *neglect of his* physical culture, without attention to which there can be neither longevity and improvement of race, nor stability of government. In other word: the intellectual life, not the absolute life, is the subject of national concern.

There have also been provided a Department of Justice, a Civil Service, and a Secret Service; also, many other agencies for the enforcement of law and order in society. Even the Fisheries, the Fish Hatcheries, and the young Seals of Alaska must needs have their Agents, and are thus vouchsafed national protection; but the defenceless innocents, intended by nature to be the citizens of the next generation, may be killed by hundreds of thousands, annually, from preventable diseases—scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever, measles, cerebro-spinal meningitis, etc., and the slaughter is wickedly charged to the will of *Divine Providence!*

The passage from infancy to childhood, and from childhood to adolescence, is a thousand fold more dangerous than the approach to our harbors; but no central effort is made to save the children from death before they reach their fifth anniversary in the voyage of life. During the present year an appropriation of over two million of dollars ($2,368,162) was made for the establishment and maintenance of light-houses, fog-signals, and other like means to warn and guide the mariner; and should shipwreck nevertheless overtake him, nearly another million ($926,000) has been provided to aid in his escape from imminent peril, by keeping up the service of the Life-Saving Stations.

In the same spirit the signal corps was supplied with $862,580 for its support. It is a valuable service and well repays to the country the money expended upon it. So long, however, as the object of this Weather Bureau, which had its origin in sanitary science, embodied merely an effort to protect the citizen from disease, no money was voted to prosecute the needful inquiries, but as soon as it was suggested that *warnings* might be given of approaching storms and property, both on land and at sea, be thereby protected, money was appropriated by millions to aid and, as far as possible, perfect that service.

To the same object may be ascribed the munificence of the Government in giving *millions* of money for the work of the coast and geodetic surveys, and for the work of the engineers in enlarging the channels to our harbors and improving our interior water ways. And thus, it seems, it is less the life than the property of the citizen that is the object of care, for we have seen where property is concerned the National Legislature is always appreciative and liberal. It is only when we come to ask for help to combat the preventable diseases constantly present among the people and save thousands of valuable lives, that the minds of the National guardians become callous and unappreciative.

The liberality in aid of Arctic relief expeditions, and for observations on the transit of Venus, is in striking contrast with the legislation on the subject of the Public Health. In the budget of appropriations for the present year $146,500 are given to the National Museum; $21,500 for the Howard University; $40,000 for the Freedman's Hospital and Asylum; $242,138 for the Hospital for the Insane; $75,000 for the Columbia Institute for the Deaf and Dumb; and as final aid to the World's Industrial and Cotton Exposition, $350,000; but how much for the protection of the health and lives of the people? It is true temporary provision has been made to protect the country at large against the exotics—cholera and yellow fever,—but it is the enemies we have always with us, pulmonary consumption, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria and other well known diseases that produce the greatest destruction of human life and swell the total of the general distress in all parts of the country, and to combat which no national provision has been made.

Besides all this surveillance of divers interests, and the supply of millions of money to support them, how many square miles of the national domain have been given away in railroad subsidies, under the plea, no doubt, that the end justified the means? Yet these acts of a liberal and progressive Government constitute, probably, not the one-hundredth part of the sum total of appropriations of money for purposes of far less importance than the interests of the public health.

It may be said that protection from the common diseases of the country, is a matter that belongs to the State, the municipality; but it belongs to the National Government as well, at least, with equal reason for the establishment and maintenance of a central bureau of education, and a department of justice, that much more can be effected by national work and cooperation than by a series of independent and inconclusive local efforts.

But I pray you not to believe that I think the Departments of Agriculture, Education and Justice have not our kindly support and encouragement. Very far from such opinion, so far, indeed, that I should be glad to see increased facilities given to the Agricultural Department for the study of of the diseases of our domesticated and food-producing animals; also, greater latitude of authority and more money given to the Department of Education. My object in directing your attention to them is simply to show that the interests of the public health have not received a corresponding and sufficient share of National aid and encouragement. The National Board of Health, which a few years ago was a live power and a strong arm in protecting the public health, has been so handicapped, she crippled by inadequate appropriations of money for its support, that it has lately been incapable of performing the important service for which it was created, and, for that reason, has now but a nominal existence.

The Marine Hospital Service has been greatly favored, and having been thus encouraged, its authority has been industriously directed by the Supervising Surgeon, Dr. Hamilton. Indeed, he has done his work so well that there is danger, I think, of overloading him with extra official duties and responsibilities, such as the control of coast quarantine and sanitary inspection, with their complex entanglements, National and inter-state, duties which were not embraced "in the bond" establishing that service.

But however active and efficient at this valuable service may have become under the administration of its able director, Dr. Hamilton, it is not proportioned to meet the need of a permanent and well supported National Health Bureau, which humanity, the spirit of the age, and the progress of Sanitary Science in this country demand shall be established, either as an independent branch of the Public Service or in connection with the Departments of Agriculture and Education. Without such national recognition and liberal support, it is impossible to bring sanitation in this country up to the level of its rapid advancement in Europe, and surely this great government of ours ought not to be behind the sister governments in such good work.

We are to-day at the very threshold of great possibilities in preventive medicine, and the central government should foster every effort for the success of the work in which sanitarians are so heartily engaged. To aid them in the study of contagious or infectious diseases, both among human beings and *animals*, and the blights upon the crops, a National Biological Laboratory should be provided; and no other place would be so well suited for the location of such a school of science as the new building now in process of erection for the Army Medical Museum and Library. With a thoroughly equipped National School of Biology, our scientists would not then have to visit the laboratories abroad—to Pasteur, in Paris; Klein, in London, and Koch, in Berlin; neither should we then see our own distinguished Sternberg quartered at the Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, for favorable facilities for the study of micro-organisms in relation to diseases.

Biology owes its existence to microscopy, and under its searching penetration the whole field of the practice of medicine has been revolutionized and placed upon more rational foundation. Without the aid of *microscopical investigations*, sanitary science could have made less substantial progress, and mere conjecture would still be the only answer to many of its important problems. Hence to be a sanitarian in the full sense of the name, means familiarity with microscopical technology, and the ways by which the great possibilities of to-day in science have been reached. Verily, what a speedy march to triumph in the field of perventive medicine if every board of health, every health officer, every practicing physician, were familiar with and employed the microscope in the study of the natural history of diseases? What is wanted is a unification of scientific sanitary work. A civilization based on science is ever progressive; and it our hopes for a glorious future are based on scientific research they are, indeed, well founded.

I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity afforded by this meeting to urge upon Congress, now in session, the necessity of legislation in the interests of the public health and scientific sanitary work. Your presence in such large numbers—having come up hither from your far off homes, quit your business of bread-*winning* for the time, and emptied your pockets of many hard-earned dollars in payment of necessary expenses of the trip to this meeting—is sufficient proof of your earnest, self-sacrificing labors in the vineyard of sanitary science, and will, I trust, influence the National Legislature to establish on a broad and firm basis a Health Bureau, which shall prove a blessing to the whole country.

The pestilence—Asiatic cholera—which has swept off so many thousands of human lives in Europe during the last two years, threatens this country, and, like the awful sword suspended over the head of Damocles, may fall at any moment upon our people and turn the whole nation into mourning. We can scarcely hope to escape next year the presence and terrors of the merciless visitor whose line of march wherever recorded has been strewn with the dead bodies of its multitude of victims. *Are are houses in order* for the coming of the unwelcome guest? If not yet, further precious time should not be wasted. In all places the alarm should be repeated, and the command given "be ye also ready!"

This meeting will be specially memorable because it begins a new series of volumes of the transactions of the Association. The work done in the past and rewarded in the literature of ten handsome volumes, speaks for itself. In none of the great incentives in this country can there be found a system of sanitary literature of greater variety and value than in these volumes. In order that their compass and value may not escape your attention, I have run over them to make the following condensed statement of their contents":

Volume I—565 pages—contains 18 papers by 44 authors.

Volume II—582 pages—13 papers by 39 authors.

Volume III—241 pages—20 papers by 29 authors.

Volume IV—396 pages—37 papers by 33 authors.

Volume V—256 pages—20 papers by 19 authors.

Volume VI—497 pages—36 papers by 56 authors.

Volume VII—440 pages—33 papers by 50 authors.

Volume VIII—360 pages—21 papers by 29 authors.

Volume IX—453 pages—26 papers by 26 authors.

Volume X—536 pages—46 papers by 43 authors; or a total of 339 different papers by 222 authors, not including 12 presidential addresses, and many verbatim reports of interesting discussions of important questions.

Several of the earlier volumes have already become so scarce in the office of the Association that the Treasurer, Dr. Lindsley, has been lately a purchaser of these issues as opportunity presented, in order to enable him to furnish complete sets. Very soon, the first three volumes cannot be supplied at any price, and the question *may not be raised how shall the* break of the set be remedied? The issue of a second edition would be next to impossible, and the only way, I think, to meet the situation would be the publication of a compendium, in one volume, of all the papers contained in the ten volumes. I submit this question for your consideration; and should it receive favor, you will, I am sure, have no difficulty in finding "the right man in the right place" as editor of the volume.

Our energies have been greatly encouraged during the past year by the munificence of Capt. Henry Lomb, a citizen of Rochester, N. Y., whose large-heartedness of sympathy and pure love of humanity induced him to offer at the St. Louis meeting last year $2,800 in prizes to be awarded at this meeting, for the best essays on the four subjects selected for competitive study and report. This noble *example* of Capt. Lomb, it is to be hoped, will from time to time be followed by other persons of like liberality, and who believe with him that the cultivation of sanitary science is the way to the highest citizenship and a life of moral purity. The Lomb prize-essays will, therefore, be a special feature of this meeting.

Of not less importance to the Association and the general public, will be the report of the Special Committee on Disinfectants, and if the character and value of the complete or final paper may be anticipated and measured by the preliminary reports which have been made by individual members of the committee, and published in the *Medical News*, Philadelphia, it will prove one of the most valuable contributions ever made to the transactions of the Association. No such painstaking labor in this field of research was ever before undertaken in this country, and I *predict for it not only the* attention but also the thanks of all English-speaking sanitarians. These papers will make the next volume of transactions a book of unusual interest and value.

And now a few words to my fair hearers who have honored us by their presence, and I am done. The Goddess Hygeia—your patron saint—will accept of her adorers and votaries no mere lip service; nothing less, indeed, than supreme devotion to her charms. The cause of sanitary science presents a strong claim upon your sympathies and affections, because its saving influence brings to the living room, the nursery, the family circle—even to extreme old age—the beauty of health and the fulfilment of domestic happiness.

The elevation of woman, the just appreciation of female excellence, has ever continued to keep pace with the advance of literature and science. *Look at her* condition among the savage tribes, cultivating the field, or carrying home the bleeding victim of the chase, driven before her barbarian lord. Look at her condition among the semi-barbarous or half-civilized nations, shut up in harems and seraglios, cut off from the enjoyment of society and denied the invigorating influences of pure air and God's own beautiful sunlight. But behold, as science advances, she gradually acquires her true position in the scale of social life, the object of universal regard, the inimitable type of the artist's skill, the theme of the poet's happiest inspirations.

I will not ask you, ladies, to approve, because I know you will approve and applaud the labors which are poured as votive offerings at the shrine of your loveliness.

DIED.

GODFREY—On Monday morning, December 7, 1885, at 10:30 o'clock, JOHN J., son of William and Mary E. Godfrey, aged 25 years and 1 month.

Funeral from the residence of his parents, No. 2129 Goff street, on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Interment at Greenwood Cemetery.

New Advertisements.

LOST—SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Gold Ring, ruby set in five diamonds, valued as a keepsake. Return to Academy of Music and suitable reward will be paid. MRS. CHARLES SHAY. de8*

NOTICE.

An adjourned meeting of the Lincoln Club will be held at their Club Rooms on Friday, December 11, 1885, at 7:30 o'clock P. M. A full attendance is desired, as matters of vital importance will be determined. F. H. DORRINS, Secretary. de9

ANOTHER LOT.

So many were disappointed by not getting one of those all copper, full size Wash Boilers we advertised last week at—No. 8 $1.25, No. 9 $1.50—that we will have another lot on sale this morning.

GEO. W. JOHNSON'S SONS, 1216 Main Street. de9

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From 5:30 o'clock P. M. until 8 o'clock P. M.

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A large attendance is expected.

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1 Capital Prize of	$150,000	$150,000
1 Grand Prize of	100,000	100,000
1 Grand Prize of	50,000	50,000
2 Grand Prizes of	10,000	20,000
4 Large Prizes of	5,000	20,000
20 Prizes of	1,000	20,000
50 Prizes of	500	25,000
100 Prizes of	200	20,000
200 Prizes of	100	20,000
500 Prizes of	50	25,000
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