A Study of State Health Administration—Federal health activities and municipal health administration have recently been the subjects of intensive investigations, but no comparative studies of state health administration have been made for over a decade. In 1912 the United States Public Health Service issued a comprehensive bulletin entitled “Organization, Powers, and Duties of Health Authorities,” which consisted of a summary of the health provisions of the various state laws. This excellent compilation, though still of some value for reference, is now out of date. In 1914 the American Medical Association published the report of a survey of state public health work, by Dr. Charles V. Chapin. This notable report is now out of print. In 1917 Professor George C. Whipple's book State Sanitation appeared, though this was almost entirely an historical account of the development of public health in Massachusetts, which is also, however, one of the most important items in the contemporary history of public health in the United States.

In order to fill in this gap between the studies of federal and municipal health work, the Institute for Government Research of Washington, D. C., is undertaking a comparative study of state health administration. This will be handled from the political science standpoint and will deal with questions of organization, legal authority, and powers, rather than with methods of scientific procedure. The development of state health administration will first be traced; then each state will be described, including such matters as the history and development of state health work, its present organization, personnel, appropriations, powers, duties, and functions; and, finally, the whole situation will be summarized, the various systems compared and discussed, and an endeavor will be made to outline an ideal arrangement from the standpoint of political science. It is estimated that this study will require about a year and it is hoped that it may be ready for publication early in 1927.

Federal Health Correlation—After some delay, due to many factors, the bill for correlation of federal health activities was introduced in the House on the 8th of March by Representative Parker of New York, chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

This bill provides that "whenever the President finds that it will promote greater efficiency in the conduct of the public health activities of the Government, he is authorized, by Executive order, to transfer to the Public Health Service all or any part of any executive agency (other than an agency of the military or naval forces, the War Department, the Navy Department, or the United States Veterans' Bureau) engaged in carrying on a public health activity."

The bill also authorizes the President to direct that scientific personnel of the Public Health Service be assigned to other agencies of the government carrying on public health work, or that such personnel may be detailed, on request to the Surgeon General. He may likewise detail personnel to educational and scientific institutions and receive outside scientists at the Hygienic Laboratory.

One of the most important items in this measure is a provision for granting commissions to sanitary engineers, dentists, and other scientists in the Service. They would have the same status as to grade and allowances as medical officers. A nurse corps would also be created, similar to that in the Army, and provision is made for a national advisory health council. The bill is printed in full elsewhere in this JOURNAL.

Federal Health Legislation—The only progress in federal health legislation up to March 6, other than the introduction of several new bills of interest to sanitarians, has been the passage of various appropriation bills, and the adoption by the Senate of S. 2828, which forfeits the pay of persons in the military and naval services for loss of time due to willful misconduct, including contraction of venereal
disease. There have also been reported a few private bills having a specialized health interest. Among new measures introduced are the following:

**Pure food**—H. R. 9096. To establish a standard weight for loaves of bread, to prevent deception thereto, and to prevent contamination. Introduced by Mr. Bland on February 9 and referred to Committee on Agriculture.

H. R. 9185. Another bill concerned with deleterious butter, and aimed at oleomargarine. Introduced by Mr. Browne, February 10, referred to Committee on Agriculture.

S. 3052, by Mr. Capper, to amend the Federal Food and Drugs Act.

On February 17 the Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 146) requesting the United States Tariff Commission to investigate the cost of production of cream, milk, buttermilk, etc., in this country and others, with the purpose that, if warranted, duties on these products may be increased. This resolution has a health import as well as an economic one.

**Tuberculosis**—S. 3373. To admit civilian Government employees stricken with tuberculosis to Army and Navy hospitals. Introduced by Senator Sheppard on March 3. Referred to Committee on Military Affairs.

**Chiropractic**—Bills have been introduced in Senate (S. 3299) and House (H. R. 9055) to regulate and license chiropractic in the District of Columbia. As usual, the bars would be let down to those who have already been practicing this cult for two years or more, regardless of their attainments or lack of them.

**Miscellaneous**—Other measures include: H. R. 9570, to prevent oil pollution of navigable waters; H. R. 9313, to require branding of articles produced by child labor which are shipped in interstate commerce; H. R. 9184, to regulate the traffic in clinical thermometers; H. J. Res. 170, to authorize the President to invite foreign delegates to the Seventh International Dental Congress to be held in Philadelphia from August 23 to 28; H. R. 9962, to regulate the narcotic drug traffic and to incorporate the Federal Narcotic Bureau; S. J. Res. 49 and S. J. Res. 52, to provide and authorize an appropriation for a monument to General W. C. Gorgas.

On March 4 Representative Frear delivered a speech on Indian affairs, in the course of which he strongly condemned present health efforts among Indians, deeming them as insufficient, inefficient, and ineffectual. This speech appears in the Appendix of the Congressional Record for March 5, page 4847.

**School Board Member as School Physician**—Through the courtesy of Dr. M. E. Champion, there has been received an advance copy of a decision of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, holding that a member of a local school board cannot also serve as a medical inspector of schools. This case, Barrett v. City of Medford, was decided on grounds of public policy. There was no statute prohibiting such service, nor was there any law allowing it. There are Massachusetts laws, however, which do not permit members of city councils or members of municipal boards to be interested in city contracts, nor to hold offices, the salary of which is paid by the city. The court has also previously held that a board of health may not appoint one of its members as quarantine physician. The court considered the present situation as an analogous one and therefore held that, in the absence of a statute to the contrary, it was improper for a school board to elect one of its members as school physician. As a consequence, the physician was unable to collect eleven months salary at $60 a month.

**Other Court Decisions**—In Mississippi it has been held, in Miller v. Tucker, 105 So. 774, that a Board of Supervisors has no authority to pay a county health officer's expenses in attending conventions outside of the county. Fortunately for sanitarians, this kind of ruling does not obtain everywhere.

In Wisconsin it was held, in Chicago & N. W. Railway Co. v. Railroad Commission, that a health law is not invalid because compliance therewith may involve a heavy financial burden. This is a good rule of law, though the financial burden must be a reasonable one.

Death from carbon monoxide poisoning has been held to be an accident under the New York workmen's compensation law, in Cantor v. Elsmere Garage, decided by the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court, 212 N. Y. S. 327. In Lerner v. Rump, 241 N. Y. 153, 149 N. E. 334, it was held in this state that a disease may be an accident within the law, but the disease must be assignable to a determinate or single act identified in space or time, and it must also be assignable to something catastrophic or extraordinary.

In January we reported that the Michigan sterilization law had been upheld. The Virginia
Supreme Court of Appeals has recently sustained the sexual sterilization act of 1924 of that state, in the case of Buck v. Bell, 130 S. E. 516. The tide seems to be turning in this matter, as up to 1925 all cases of this nature had held such laws unconstitutional. The newer ones are drafted more effectively.

CONVENTIONS
April 15-16, Western Physiotherapy Association, Kansas City, Mo.
April 19-20, American Association of Medical Milk Commissions, Dallas, Tex.
April 19-23, American Medical Association, Dallas, Tex.
April 26-28, American Orthopaedic Association, Atlanta, Ga.
April 27-29, Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, Baltimore, Md.
May 3, American Society of Clinical Investigation, Atlantic City, N. J.
May 4-5, Association of American Physicians, Atlantic City, N. J.
May 5-7, American Urological Association, Boston, Mass.

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