

**MEDICAL PROBLEMS OF LEGISLATION;  
BEING THE PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS  
PRESENTED AT THE XLI  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN  
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, HELD AT  
DETROIT, MICH., JUNE 9-12, 1916**

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## PREFACE.

The boundary between legislation and medicine is extensive and extending. With each succeeding session of the legislatures these problems become more varied and complicated. It begins with prescribing the requirements for entering upon the practice of medicine, continues in regulating the practice in important directions after the student has become a physician, as shown by the laws regulating criminal malpractice, prescribing of narcotics and, more recently, by the various forms of welfare insurance. Thus the contact between the physician himself and legislation is important and intimate. Then there are the regulations grupt together under public health laws and the medical questions to be determined in legislating for the care of defectiv classes, which are additional examples of the intimate relationship between medicine and legislation.

This volume presents and discusses some of these problems, being the transactions of the forty-first annual meeting of the American Academy of Medicine. The papers have already appeared in the official organ of the Academy, the *Journal of Sociologic Medicine*, and are gathered together in a single volume for the convenience of those who may desire to refer to these papers apart from other articles appearing in the *Journal*.





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OUR SOCIAL READJUSTMENTS AND THE RELATION  
OF THE STATE TO MOTHERHOOD AND  
CHILDREN.

By GEORGE A. HARE, M.D., Fresno, Cal.

We have met this evening to celebrate the forty-first anniversary of the founding of the American Academy of Medicine. I will not attempt to recount our achievements, for society has moved so rapidly during the past forty-one years that should any one have had the temerity to have outlined our progress he would have been classed as a dreamer of dreams.

It was Morse who tried to forecast our progress in 1819 by teaching school children in his *Universal Geography* issued in that year that "All settlers who go beyond the Mississippi River will be forever lost to the United States."

And again it was tried in 1840 by no less a person than Daniel Webster who, in one of his eloquent speeches before the United States Senate, expressed his belief that the Mississippi River formed the Western boundary of modern progress beyond which American civilization could hope to make no substantial headway for he asked, "What do we want with that vast and worthless area—that region of savage wild beasts, of deserts, of shifting sands and whirling winds, of dust, of cactus and of prairie dogs?" "To what use could we ever hope to put those great deserts and those endless mountain ranges—what could we ever do with that western coast—a coast of three thousand miles—rock-