

**FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD
OF HEALTH OF THE STATE OF
VERMONT FOR THE YEAR
ENDING SEPT. 1ST., 1890**

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Fourth annual report of the secretary of the State Board of Health of the State of Vermont for the year ending Sept. 1st, 1890 by Various

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VARIOUS

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FOR THE
Year Ending Sept. 1st, 1890.

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1890.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, }
RICHFORD, September 1st, 1890. }

To-His Excellency.

WILLIAM P. DILLINGHAM,

Governor.

SIR :—I have the honor of submitting to you the Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Health, for the year ending September 1st, 1890.

Very Respectfully,

J. H. HAMILTON,

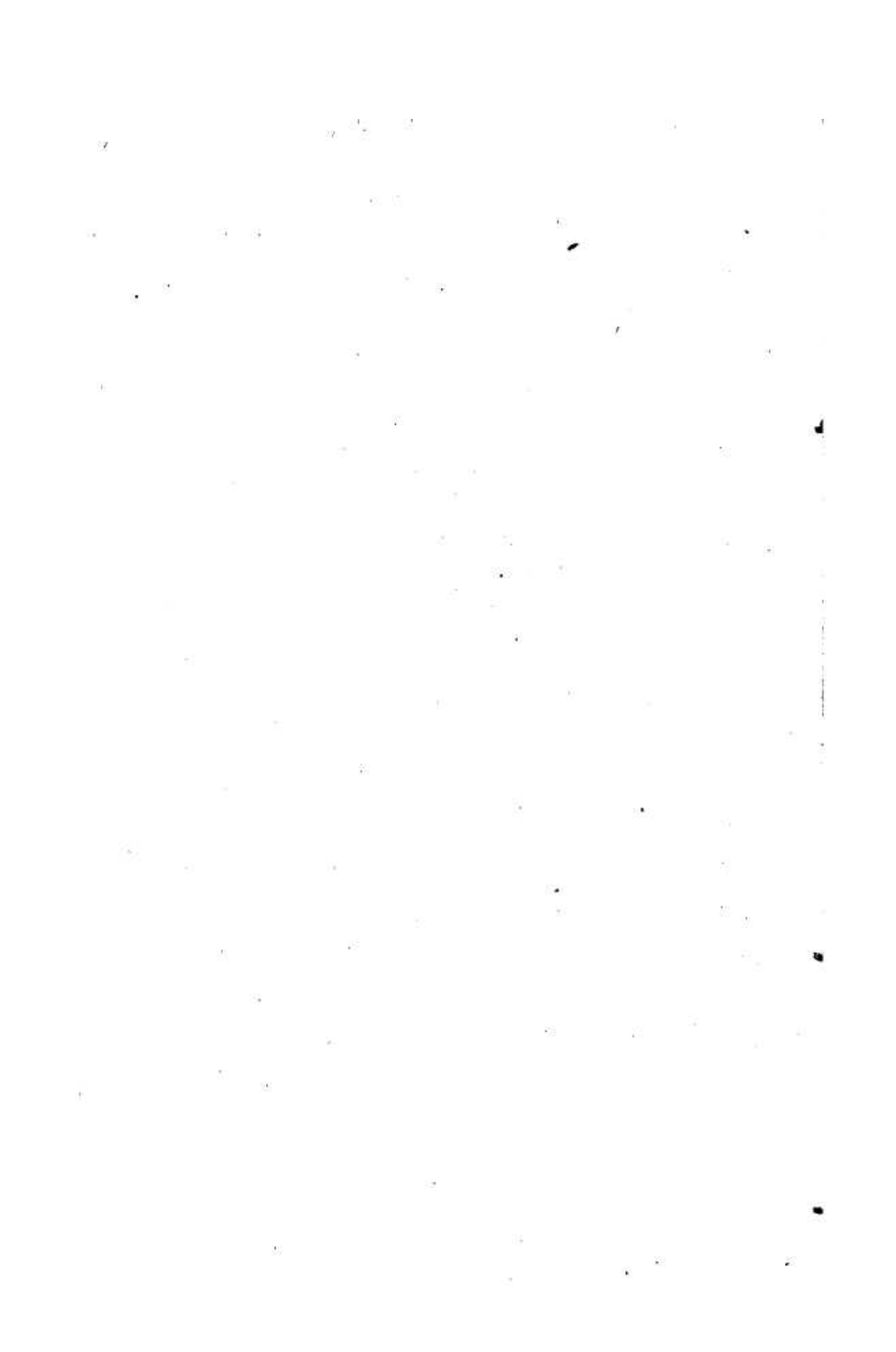
Secretary.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

	Term Expires.
DR. A. H. CHESMORE, Huntington.....	1893
DR. C. S. CAVERLY, Rutland.....	1890
DR. J. H. HAMILTON, Richford.....	1894

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD.

DR. A. H. CHESMORE, President.
DR. J. H. HAMILTON, Secretary.



No. 93.—AN ACT TO PREVENT THE SPREADING OF
CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND TO ESTABLISH A
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

SECTION 1. The Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint three persons as members of a State Board of Health for the State of Vermont. The term of office of said members of said board shall be so arranged that the term of one of them shall expire at the end of every second year. Vacancies in said board shall be filled as they occur by appointment of the Governor, and confirmation by the Senate when next in session.

SEC. 2. The members of said board first named in said appointment shall call a meeting of said members immediately after notice of said appointment shall be received by said members, and said board shall meet within six days after said notice, at the time and place designated in said call, and said board shall organize by electing one of their number to be President of said board, and the board shall also appoint a Secretary, who shall be a reputable practicing physician of this State, and if not one of the members of said board by appointment he shall be a member of the board by virtue of his appointment of Secretary. The said Secretary shall hold his office until said board shall appoint another Secretary, and he shall be the executive officer of said Board of Health.

SEC. 3. The board shall take cognizance of the interests of life and health among the inhabitants of the State; shall make or cause to be made sanitary investigations and inquiries respecting causes of disease, especially of epidemics, and the means of prevention; the sources of mortality and the effect of localities, employments, habits, and circumstances of life on the public health. They shall also, when requested, or when in their opinion the sanitary interests of localities require it, advise with municipal officers with regard to the location, drainage, water supply, heating and ventilation of public buildings and the drainage and sewerage of towns and cities.

SEC. 4. The board shall meet biennially on the second Tuesday of the session of the Legislature at Montpelier, and at such other times and places as in the judgment of the board the public health may require, and also whenever the public safety of the people or the stock and domestic animals of the State shall require. The Secretary, as executive officer of the board, shall superintend the performance of the work prescribed in this act, and shall perform such other duties as the board shall direct. He shall also respond to the invitations of boards of selectmen of the several towns, or the mayor of a city, in case of epidemics, contagious diseases or

other unusual sickness, by visiting the locality, or in such other ways as may be deemed best; he shall render the Secretary of State any necessary assistance in preparing for publication the annual registration reports, as required by law, relating to births, deaths and marriages in the State, and he shall make report to the Governor on or before the first day of September in each year of the investigations, discoveries, and recommendations of the board, which report shall be printed and distributed as soon as practicable thereafter in the same manner as other public documents of the State.

SEC. 5. The compensation of members of the board shall be five dollars per day and actual expenses while in the discharge of their official duties, and the Governor and Auditor of Accounts may allow to the Secretary of said board such additional sums for services as Secretary, or for services in times of extraordinary peril, as seem to them reasonable, provided the whole expense of the board, including the Secretary for services rendered and all expenses incurred, shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars in any year, except in some extraordinary public peril, in which case the governor may order said board to do and perform service for the safety of the State and her people in excess of said sum, but never to exceed the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars in all in any one year.

SEC. 6. This board shall have authority to promulgate and enforce such regulations for the better preservation of the public health in contagious and epidemic diseases as they shall judge necessary; and any person or persons or corporation neglecting or refusing, after having been duly notified in writing, to comply with the requirements of such regulations shall, upon conviction thereof, pay to the treasurer of the State a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, said offense to be prosecuted for before any court of competent jurisdiction in the State.

SEC. 7. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved November 23, 1886.

Report of the Board of Health.



GENERAL REPORT.

This report comprises the work of the State Board of Health for the year ending September 1, 1890.

The sudden death of Dr. C. L. Allen, late Secretary, in whose hands was much valuable matter and memoranda, not understood by the other members, makes the task a difficult one; besides, very much of interest and value will not appear in the report which otherwise would.

GENERAL WORK OF THE BOARD.

There have been four meetings of the board during the year, the last one at Burlington, July 15th, for the special purpose of reorganization, made necessary by the death of Dr. Allen and the appointment of Dr. C. S. Caverly as member instead. The other meetings have been held at Montpelier for the purpose of consultation with the Sergeant-at-Arms, made necessary by an Act of the Legislature, entitled "An act to improve the ventilation of the State House," the result of which will appear in a special report of the meetings. At these meetings also it has been the object of the board to take cognizance of the interests of the life and health among the inhabitants of the State; to promulgate rules and regulations for the better promotion of the public health in contagious and infectious diseases.

At the organization of the board in 1886 they found that the Legislature had given them very limited power—little more than advisory—and that all that could be done was to work for the education of the public mind upon sanitation in general.

This was the policy adopted and this has constituted the principal part of the work. That progress and advancement has been made in the sanitary sentiment of the public is evinced by the increasing demand for the abatement of nuisances which are believed to be injurious to health; more frequent calls for the organization of local boards of health and a more universal demand for circulars issued by the board giving instruction in regard to measures needful to be taken for the prevention of the spread of contagious and infectious diseases.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD.

After working for four years under many difficulties and disadvantages, and believing that much more good could be accomplished with increased power, the Board of Health would respectfully recommend that additional authority be granted them, like that contained in Senate Bill No. 45, so amended as to relieve it of the objectionable features. Following is the bill. The parts stricken out are inclosed in brackets. Additions are printed in italics.

SENATE 45.

[Introduced by Senator Taft of Chittenden County, and referred to the Special Joint Committee on Health.]

AN ACT DEFINING THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE STATE AND LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH, OF HEALTH OFFICERS, AND OTHERS.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

SECTION 1. Selectmen of towns, and Aldermen of cities, [Bailiffs and Trustees of incorporated villages], shall be called, and shall act as LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH with duties and powers hereinafter assigned. Selectmen of towns may, if, in their opinion, it is advisable, appoint three suitable persons as a local Board of Health, who shall perform the duties and exercise the powers otherwise assigned to the Selectmen as Boards of Health.

SEC. 2. The health officer, appointed by the State Board of Health, shall be Secretary and Executive Officer of the local Board of Health, and shall hold his office two years, and until another is appointed, unless he resign or is removed for proper cause. He shall make sanitary inspections whenever and wherever he has reason to suppose anything exists which may be detrimental to public health. He shall have authority to enter slaughter-houses, cheese-factories, or any place where any kind of food or drink is manufactured or prepared, kept or sold; to enter cellars or other premises wherever filth is liable to accumulate. He shall, as executive officer of the local board, give a written order for the destruction, prevention or removal, within a certain specified time, of all nuisances, sources of filth, or causes of sickness. Any one neglecting or refusing to comply with a written order of a health officer shall be subjected to a fine of not less than five dollars nor over one hundred dollars.

The health officer shall receive all certificates of death and give certificates of permission for [burial or] removal, in accordance with rules hereinafter prescribed. He shall transmit immediately