

may appear and make answer to any further inquiry which the General Assembly may wish to make.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM H. WELCH,
President.

EXPLANATION OF THE NECESSITY FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF
CERTAIN SUMS TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH TO BE
INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION
BILL FOR 1916 AND 1917.

Sanitary Surveys—An appropriation of \$3,000 is asked for 1916, and a like sum for 1917, for the sanitary survey of a county in each year. Two county surveys have been completed, of Dorchester county in 1914, and of Anne Arundel in 1915. In both these surveys the State Department of Health had the co-operation of the United States Public Health Service. Without this co-operation the surveys would have been impossible. The Federal Government bore more than half the cost of these surveys. The cost to the State was in round numbers \$5,000 in two years, and was defrayed out of the appropriation under Chapter 675 of the Acts of 1914. This law authorizes the State Board of Health to concentrate the Deputy State Health Officers in any of the ten Sanitary Districts. It was thought advisable to concentrate them in Dorchester county in 1914, in order that they may be worked out as a team in co-operation with officers of the United States Public Health Service. Every rural home in Dorchester county, and nearly every home in the towns and villages was visited, and families were advised concerning the protection of their drinking water, the disposal of waste, protection against flies, and other means of avoiding certain infectious diseases, especially typhoid fever. Besides these private conferences hundreds of public lectures and lantern demonstrations were given. The survey began about the middle of July and was ended about November 1. Dorchester county had in 1914 the lowest typhoid rate in twenty years and we believe this was due to the survey. This method of house-to-house visiting is probably the most important advance in recent years in the practice of public hygiene. It brings the elementary information concerning the spread of disease directly to the attention of the people far more effectively than can be done by any amount of printing or by any amount of visiting by public health officials for the purpose of controlling disease actually present. The United States Public