

STATE HEALTH LAWS NO HELP, HURTY SAYS
Hopes to Get Bill He Is Preparing Through Assembly.

THREE FATAL DEFECTS

Existing health laws of Indiana stand in the way of successfully protecting citizens of the State from disease, instead of acting as a barrier to spread of epidemic and spreading system of Dr. J. N. Hurty, secretary of the State board of health. Dr. Hurty, with other health officials of the State, is now working on a system of health prevention and health laws, a bill for the adoption of which probably will be presented to the Legislature in the next session.

Dr. Hurty is strong of the belief that new health laws are needed in the State. The present health law is out of date, sadly unscientific and unequal to the work of practically applying modern disease prevention methods, he says.

"The present health law fails to produce the best results, and the money is largely wasted," said Dr. Hurty. "It is like an old, wheary, back-bumber locomotive that can run but little and pull a light load."

The new health law would provide for all time health officers. The present law provides for employment of doctors for health officers for such time as they choose to give from the practice, and pays health officers one and one-half cents per annum per capita of population served, and pays 2 cents to city and town health officers.

VIOLATES AGE-OLD LAW, HE DECLARES.

"No man can serve two masters," said Dr. Hurty, "yet the law attempts to accomplish this impossible task. The doctor health officer being in the practice of medicine is in competition with his brother physicians, and, of course, can not secure their cooperation. Without their cooperation only partial success in disease-prevention work is possible."

"Another gross defect in the present law lies in the fact that only doctors, in every slight degree, are educated and trained in disease prevention methods. Most doctors have studied cure only. They do not know how to apply the ounce of prevention. Their skill lies in applying the costly pound of cure."

Three fatal defects exist in the present law. They are:

"Health officers are doctors giving what they choose to public health work."

"Health officers are practicing doctors in competition with their brother doctors, and, therefore, cannot secure their cooperation and without this cooperation present health officers are only slightly successful."

"Health officers are, with exception, untrained and untrained in hygiene and disease prevention work. Their education and training are in

the line of the pound of cure and not in the line of the ounce of prevention. Hence they are not efficient and economical to the State.

OTHER DEFECTS ARE OBSTRUCTIVE.

"Other defects, which are only obstructive, to its enforcement, are: The law does not clearly define health officers' duties and powers; it does not provide adequate pay; it does not provide a health fund, nor does it provide a proper penalty for failure or refusal to fulfill duties."

"A new law, up to date and scientific, would provide trained health officers who gave their entire time to keeping away disease and injury. These public health officers should be appointed from an eligible list upon which they have obtained recognition through physical and mental examination."

"Each county should appoint its own county health commissioner; his salary should be a living one graded by the number of people he serves; his duties

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and powers should be clearly defined; a proper health appropriation should be provided in each county; he would keep full and accurate records of his work and he should be subordinate to the State Board of Health and be subject to direction for such reasons as the law may set forth.

"A modern health law as above outlined, would not create a new office, but would make an old office efficient. It would abolish all town health officers, and all city officers and boards of health in cities under 10,000 inhabitants. Such

officers would be unnecessary under the new system, and their abolition would be a saving of expenditure with increased efficiency."

"Failure and expense will continue if the Legislature does not provide a new machine. The old has served its day and must be junked."

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Villa Lives on Farm
SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Nov. 19.—Francisco Villa, retired Mexican bandit chief, is living quietly on a farm in the State of Durango, according to Elias L. Torres, who arranged his retirement. Torres has issued a complete denial of reports that Villa was in Lower California.

Fifteen hundred of Villa's former followers are with him tilling the soil. Torres stopped off here while en route to Washington where he will be attached to the Mexican embassy.

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