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FIRST REPORT
OF
The National League
for
Medical Freedom



ISSUED TO ITS MEMBERS
AUGUST, 1910



The National League for Medical Freedom
METROPOLITAN BUILDING
NEW YORK CITY

FIRST REPORT

OF

**The National League for
Medical Freedom**



TO ITS MEMBERS

AUGUST, 1910



The National League for Medical Freedom

METROPOLITAN BUILDING

NEW YORK CITY

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FIRST REPORT

OF

The National League for Medical Freedom

TO OUR MEMBERS:

The Directors of our League desire to make a brief report of its recent activities in behalf of medical freedom, the results obtained and the lines along which future activities of the League should be directed.

The idea of the League was first conceived a little more than ninety days ago, when it became known that the dominant factors in the American Medical Association were behind a number of bills in Congress, more or less innocent in appearance, but which were designed to put the Government power and prestige behind the "regular," or Allopathic, school of healing. In effect these bills would create and turn over to this school a machine with National foundations and State ramifications, which would be used to create a monopoly for the Allopathic school of healing and force its theories upon the public.

The alarm was sounded to the Homœopaths, the Eclectics, the Osteopaths, the Christian Scientists and other schools of healing, the members of the Anti-Compulsory Vaccination League and the Anti-Vivisection Society. Enrollments and funds poured in by the tens of thousands from these people, and, along with them, from a number of the advocates of the "regular" school of medicine—the "regular" school volunteers being those who opposed the growing activities of the American Medical Association in politics and its oppression of the schools that do not agree with it. The League was then incorporated with directors representing all of the above interests, and attorneys were employed to oppose the bill at Washington.

On May 19th the League appeared before the Senate "Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine" in opposition to the Owen Bill, designed to create a department of health, with its head occupying a position in the President's Cabinet. . . . There appeared for the bill the legislative agents of the American Medical Association, representatives of the life insurance companies, and the chairman of the so-called "Committee of One Hundred on National Health," which

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consists of physicians and prominent laymen working with the American Medical Association—no doubt with honest aims—to secure this legislation. The arguments made by the League before the Senate Committee—through its counsel, ex-Governor Bates of Massachusetts, and others—for the most part opposed the legislation on the grounds that it was unconstitutional, unnecessary and extravagant.

During this hearing the League was challenged to prove that this legislation was desired by the dominant factors in the American Medical Association for political reasons or for purposes of medical compulsion. Hence, when the hearing occurred upon the Mann Bill, and a number of others of similar import before the House "Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce," on June 2d, the League had prepared its evidence with positive proof of the fact that the American Medical Association had created the seeming sentiment for these bills and meant to use the bills, if passed, for the purpose of political aggrandizement and medical compulsion. These facts were presented by Colonel Frederick A. Bangs of Chicago, associate counsel of the League. A few excerpts from Colonel Bangs' speech will be found on pages 14 to 21 of this report, and the facts therein briefly set forth prove beyond question the contentions of the League and the necessity for its existence.

The money for the support of the League has been given by people benefited by other forms of healing than "regular" medicine. The League has neither asked nor received contributions from any of the patent medicine interests. This is the fact, no matter what has been said to the contrary.

Recent developments show that the advocates of these bills now see the improbability of getting a department of health at this time, and are trying to get some of the minor medical "bureaus" through as an opening wedge. In our opinion a bureau presents dangers as great or greater than a department, the danger of such a bureau being clearly pointed out by Mr. Edmund Vance Cooke, a member of our Advisory Board, in an open letter to Prof. Irving Fisher, which is reproduced on pages 22 and 23 of this report.

The principal Bureau bill is the Mann Bill, providing for "the enlargement of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service." This bill provides for "conventions" of the Government and State doctors at Washington, all such "conventions" to be held at the expense of the Government. It provides a lobbyist at Government expense to go to the various States and secure uniform health legislation. It

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authorizes the United States Government to assist the States in enforcing State health laws on the request of State health authorities, who of course are nearly all of the "regular" school. It provides for the manufacture and distribution of virus and its compulsory use, provides for investigations into the causes of disease and recommendations for their cure, and a general overseeing of the health activities heretofore reserved to themselves by the various States.

The only safe position for League members to take is to oppose all interference by the United States Government in the health affairs of the States and to oppose every device by which greater authority may be exercised over the people by the Allopathic school of medicine. Congress adjourned without taking action on any of these measures.

Since the adjournment of Congress, representatives of the American Medical Association in Vermont, which was one of the first States to hold its nominating convention this year, endeavored to secure the endorsement of National Health Legislation by the Republican party in that State, and succeeded in having a favorable plank inserted in the tentative platform of the party.

The League was informed of this attempt, immediately sent representatives to Montpelier, and inaugurated an aggressive campaign of education, with the result as reported in the New York *Herald* of July 1st, excerpts from which are as follows:

"HOOTS FOR 'DOCTORS' TRUST'

"As Health Bureau Gets Death Blow in Vermont—Shouts of Laughter and Derision Fill State Republican Convention When Attempt is Made to Put Plank Back into Platform.

"ONLY THREE IN FAVOR ON THE FINAL VOTE.
(Special Dispatch to the *Herald*.)

"MONTPELIER, VT., Thursday.—Medical feudalism went down to defeat to-day amid cries of derision when the Republican State Convention, with only three voices dissenting, rejected a plank providing for a National Department of Health shaped for the party platform by the political doctors. The hewers of the timber which has been cast out would not accept the verdict of the Committee on Resolutions who last night, as told in the *Herald*, eliminated the objectionable paragraph from the draft, but appeared bright and early this morning with hammer and saw and self-clinching nails.

"Never did any clique which ever sought to foist its views upon

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an organization meet with a more stinging rebuke than that which was administered in Armory Hall. The effort of the American Medical Association to build up a powerful machine, which has been set forth first in Vermont, has been frustrated disastrously. This Commonwealth certainly was the best place for such an attempt, for so strong is the influence of the family doctor in politics that the desks of the room of the State Legislature are on steep tiers that make the place look like an operating amphitheater.

"The plank already had slipped into place and was about to be nailed down when the friends of medical freedom succeeded in making known its real purpose. It was at the eleventh hour that its nature was revealed and the designs of its artificers nullified.

"Revised Platform Presented.

"The revised platform was presented by Col. Frank L. Green, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, and it was a carefully prepared document which dealt with all public questions in a conservative manner. The physicians in the Convention, and there were many, looked at each other knowingly when the medical plank turned up missing.

"From the delegation which was directly in front of the rostrum arose Mr. Edgar J. Hall, of Bennington, who proposed that there be added to the platform a plank 'urging the founding of a National Department of Health, provided that it shall be done under such restrictions as should insure entire and absolute medical freedom,' words taken from the book of the League for Medical Freedom, which had sent representatives to Montpelier to present its views on the plank, which it believes was intended to trip up the schools of healing other than the Allopathic cult.

"'We as a people,' said Mr. Hall, 'must face all the problems of death, for death comes to us all. No problem with which the Government has to deal is as serious as that of death and disease.'

"Delegates Become Restless.

"Here the delegates lost all their patience and began to shuffle their feet and to groan, and from the galleries came now and then a shrill cry of mockery.

"'Gentlemen of the Convention,' said Colonel Green, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, 'our committee gave due consideration

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to all that the gentleman from Bennington has said as to the causes of death, and after due consideration we decided that it was not prudent to recognize death in this platform.'

"Derisive Cheers Fill Hall.

"Shouts of laughter and derision filled the hall, for 689 delegates who only a few hours before blindly would have voted for the plank now were fully informed as to its origin. Only three voices were heard to say 'Aye' when the vote was called for, and a roar of negation brought the health department incident to a close."

* * * * *

In addition to the work done in Vermont, the League through its representatives has attended conventions of the National Eclectic Association and the International Hahnemannian Association, with the result that both these great bodies unanimously adopted resolutions opposing all the proposed forms of medical legislation by Congress.

The Missouri State Board of Osteopathic Examiners and Registration also passed similar resolutions. Copies of these resolutions will be found on pages 12 and 13 of this report.

The League has received advices of attempts of the American Medical Association to secure endorsement of its plans from various civic conventions, and it will without doubt attempt to secure the recommendation of national health legislation from the various State conventions of both political parties.

Every League member should do everything in his or her individual power to circumvent such plans of the American Medical Association and should try to secure both new members and subscriptions to the League. Think what the result would be if every one of our present members would secure just *one more member* and make a contribution, though a small one, to the support of the League!

As this report goes to press, we are reliably informed that a most determined effort will be made at the short session of Congress, in December, to push through some sort of health legislation. We must be awake and active. Surely just now eternal vigilance is the price of medical freedom.

All of which is respectfully submitted.



Secretary.

REMEMBER

Remember that the thousands of health boards of the States, counties and municipalities are nine-tenths Allopathic.

Remember that there are now nearly 7,000 doctors employed by the United States Government; that *every one* is an Allopath or "regular;" *not one* is of any other school; that the examination for physicians and surgeons is Allopathic; and if the adherent of any other school should, by accident, break in, he would be directed in Allopathic methods by an *Allopath*.

Remember that while the Owen Bill as introduced may not be passed, yet the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of the House, composed of careful and able men, have been made to believe that perhaps legislation should enlarge the scope of the present "Marine Hospital Service" so as to empower it to co-operate with States to stop epidemics and prevent the pollution of streams.

Remember that constitutional interpretation is so generous at Washington to-day, and the authority conferred under all of the Health Bills proposed is so vague, that any citizen is justified in fearing that a Health Bureau so created might assume authorities and functions unexpectedly and dangerously broad and dominating, and *could* do what it *would*.

Remember that the constant experiences of the advocates of other schools of healing with the Allopaths in the various States of the Union give natural rise to the fear that such a bureau of probably 10,000 national Allopathic physicians allied with 15,000 more State Allopathic physicians, most of whom believe in the infallibility of their own school and the rights of "medical compulsion," *would* do what it *could*.

RESOLUTIONS

NATIONAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

In convention at Boston, Mass., July 1, 1910.

WHEREAS, Certain measures have been introduced in Congress and the Senate of the United States in which we can clearly recognize the handiwork of those who would be autocrats in the profession and by their methods hamper progress in the use of medicines, circumscribe the qualifications of physicians and build up a political measure for the purpose of creating sinecures and obtaining emolument for themselves by not only invading the rights of physicians, but curtailing the powers of the various States in the Union, to combat in their own locality, and within their own territory disease, plague and pestilence whenever it may appear; and

WHEREAS, This Association will at all times welcome legislation, which will tend to the betterment of mankind and the lessening of disease and the curing of the same, yet it nevertheless views with alarm the assumption of power by political organizations who would create a monopoly in the interest of themselves and others of like ilk; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Association is unalterably opposed to any Federal legislation looking to the creation of a Cabinet officer of Health or Board of Health, except such legislation be so prepared and passed as to preserve the absolute liberty and independence of colleges and the preservation of State rights without the interference on the part of any officer or officers of the Federal Government with a free and untrammelled study and practice of medicine in all its forms and branches; and be it

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to such Representatives in Congress and members of the Senate as by the Secretary of this Association shall be deemed proper.

INTERNATIONAL HAHNEMANNIAN ASSOCIATION.

In convention at Kansas City, Mo., June 27, 1910.

WHEREAS, There are now pending in the National Congress certain bills fostered by the American Medical Association under the guise of "health legislation"; and

RESOLUTIONS—*Continued.*

WHEREAS, This legislation, if made effective, would further the purposes of the American Medical Association to establish a medical trust in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A coalition of medicine and State is as undesirable and un-American as church and State; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the International Hahnemannian Association, in convention assembled, does hereby protest without equivocation against the passage of these bills. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be submitted to the Secretary of this Association for publication, and also that a copy be sent to each of the Senators and Representatives in Congress.

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS AND REGISTRATION.

WHEREAS, There is now pending before the National Congress a bill, known as the Owen Bill, which has for its object the establishing of a National Bureau of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, It is the conviction of the members of this board that the creation of such a department, presided over by one of their own school, is the final step in the legislative policy of the American Medical Association to establish an Allopathic medical oligarchy, having for its ultimate object the complete domination of all schools of healing; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this board that the creation of such a department under these conditions would facilitate legislation looking toward the abolition of State boards of health and separate Osteopathic State boards; and

WHEREAS, It is regarded that the complete domination of one school of medicine over other recognized schools of healing in matters of public health is inimical to the public welfare, the progress of science, liberty, and the development of the science of Osteopathy in particular, which depends largely upon the independence of the Osteopathic profession; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of this board are strenuously and unqualifiedly opposed to the said Owen Bill being enacted into a law; and it is further

Resolved, That we call upon the members of the profession in the State of Missouri to write to their Congressmen and Senators voicing their unqualified opposition to the measure.

EXTRACTS

from the address of **FREDERICK A. BANGS** before the
**COMMITTEE on INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE** of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

RELATING TO

Health Activities of the General Government.

You have listened to many arguments showing on their face the absolute unselfishness of those who are attempting to have passed one or more of the bills now pending before you for the creation of either a department of health, with a secretary at its head, and a position in the President's Cabinet, or a bureau of health in some one of the now established departments, or the enlarging of the power of such a bureau.

It shall be my endeavor to puncture this seeming altruistic and philanthropic spirit, and to show what is truly and honestly behind these measures, to-wit.: the selfish interest of a minority of what is known as the American Medical Association, an organization composed almost exclusively of Allopathic doctors. Under what was termed a reorganization of that association a few years past, a certain faction secured control of the affairs of that institution and so manipulated its by-laws and constitution as to allow them to perpetuate their rule. As thus reorganized, it is now the American Medical Association, and includes State and county medical organizations throughout the United States, making it a powerful political association.

This organization has for some years been appearing in the different State legislatures and asking for laws on their face relating to the public health, but in fact designed to establish a medical trust or monopoly. For some five years or more last past they have been actively agitating and promulgating the idea of a National Board of Health. They now have control of many of the various State and municipal boards of health and seek to get control of a National Board of Health, and this political section of the American Medical Associa-

tion is behind, fostering and endeavoring to have passed the bills now before this committee.

It was stated before the Senate Committee upon the hearing of what is known as the Owen Bill, now pending in the Senate, by Dr. Charles A. L. Reed, whose official position is chairman of the Legislative Committee of the American Medical Association, that—

“The American Medical Association is an organization of the physicians of the United States ; it consists of a national body, of State bodies, and of county bodies. The county is the unit of organization. Nineteen years ago that association (the national body) adopted a resolution in favor of such a measure as this ; in other words, in favor of a department of public health, with the secretary in the Cabinet.”

The same desire to have a National Board of Health was made manifest again when this reorganization took place, and while endeavoring to have the various State laws passed and enforced, they did not forget to prepare and arrange for the passage of a law by Congress establishing a National Board of Health.

Senator Owen stated, when he introduced his bill in the Senate, that he did so “in accordance with the earnest and repeated desire of the American Medical Association,” and stated that nine years ago (four years before the organization of the Committee of One Hundred), he had the importance of the matter called to his attention by an article by Maj. William O. Owen, printed in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, October 26, 1901, and further stated ‘that the principle of this bill has the cordial approval and support of the officers of the American Medical Association.’

Dr. G. Frank Lydston, professor of genito-urinary surgery in the medical department, State University of Illinois, Chicago, a member of the American Medical Association, who is now and for some time has been fighting the minority in control of the affairs of the American Medical Association, says :

“It requires no great power of discernment to see what will happen if the present despotism of the A. M. A. goes on unchecked. As to the outcome : Medical positions under the United States Government—controlled by the machine. Medical appointments under the State—controlled by the machine. Medical offices in city or county—dispensed by the machine. Number and organization of medical colleges and personnel of medical faculties—dictated by the machine. Journals which shall be published and organizations which we may join—controlled by the machine. “Thinks” which we shall think—controlled by the machine. Whether the machine will ever prescribe

the habiliments we shall wear, deponent saith not, but the rank and file will ever be like "Alice in Wonderland," complaining of 'cake yesterday and cake to-morrow, but none to-day.'

"What do we find on the credit side of the ledger? A tyrannical political machine, a large circulation for a journal monopoly and a business of a half million dollars a year, in which we are "stockholders" only to the extent of bearing the financial burdens, for we have no voice. Have we not sold our birthright for a mess of pottage?"

The following quotation from three of the officers of the American Medical Association is in a report on the question of reorganization :

"After a full consideration of the problem before us, we early reached the conclusion that it would be useless at this late date to suggest the adoption of either halfway or compromise measures, and therefore we have prepared and now submit a completely revised constitution and by-laws, designed to federate all the State organizations in this association, to foster scientific medicine, and to make the medical professor a power in the social and political life of the republic."

This establishes beyond peradventure that it was the intention of this minority, which has been styled by Doctor Lydston "the oligarchy of the American Medical Association," to establish and perpetuate a medical monopoly or trust. How far they have succeeded I shall now endeavor to show from the evidence at my command.

In nearly every State in the United States medical laws have been passed requiring licensing of doctors and establishing boards of health, permitting the establishment of municipal boards of health, and otherwise regulating and controlling the dispensing of medicine and the administering to the sick, and more or less authority has been given to each of the State and municipal boards of health, according to the laws of the different States in which the same were organized, and in nearly every instance the men controlling these State and municipal boards of health are members of the Allopathic section of medicine and members of the American Medical Association.

In most, if not all, of the States this association had endeavored to have laws passed which, if successful, would have prevented any one's exercising the healing art save those belonging to the Allopathic school, and in some instances, where such schools were sufficiently strong, the Homœopaths and Eclectics. But, fortunately for the people and medical freedom, these bills were, in most instances, defeated. In some of the States it is necessary to fight these bills and this association at every meeting of the legislature. Ohio, Texas, Maryland and Delaware

now have drastic measures by which it is unlawful for any other practitioners than the ones protected by this monopoly legislation to receive compensation for their services, though they may practice without hindrance otherwise. In New York, Missouri and some other States such bills were defeated during the last sessions of their respective legislatures.

In Colorado and Nebraska such laws were passed, but the efforts of the advocates of freedom were rewarded by vetoes. This occurred twice in Colorado.

Under the date of May 10th, the Bureau of Legislation of the American Medical Association sent its now famous and embarrassing letter to doctors all over the country, asking them

“(1) To secure as delegates from your county to your congressional nominating conventions of ALL parties, men who are in favor of establishing a National Department of Health with a secretary in the Cabinet and, through them, to secure the adoption of a plank in their respective platforms in favor of such a measure;

“(2) To secure, if possible, a definite promise from each candidate for Congress to support such a measure, if elected. In the absence of such promise, to secure either an expression of the attitude of the candidate on the question or his refusal to make such an expression. The position of all candidates, whatever it may be, should be known to the electors BEFORE THE NOMINATIONS ARE MADE.

“(3) To secure the adoption of a plank in favor of a Department of Public Health in the platform of each political convention, whether county, district or State.”

Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, of Harrisburg, Pa., a member of the American Medical Association, in a paper entitled ‘Law, the Foundation of State Medicine,’ on page 1926 of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for June 8, 1907, says:

“It is not too much to say that on State medicine depends the happiness of our people and the success of our nation.”

And he declares that the individual who insists on “what he calls his own rights” when the question of giving him and his association the power they seek is under consideration is “an undesirable citizen of the Republic.”

He further says:

“Compulsion, not persuasion, is the keynote of State medicine. Let it be understood that, no matter how great efforts we may make to

educate the people, unless we have the *lex scripta*—the written law—to fall back on, State medicine, while it may be a beautiful science, can never be a practical art. The great majority of mankind are neither wise enough voluntarily to submit themselves to the requirements of sanitary law for the sake of preserving their own health and that of their loved ones, nor righteous enough to be willing to exercise self-denial and repress the cravings of avarice to save others from sickness, suffering and death. But the law we must have. These laws must reach into all the relations of life. As their basis they must start with the prompt and accurate registration of births, deaths, and marriages, and of the presence of transmissible and communicable diseases, and they must embrace the control of epidemics by domiciliary quarantine; the supervision of the transportation of both the quick and the dead, and the burial of the dead; the construction, heating and ventilation of our homes and public buildings; the protection of water supplies and the restoration to purity of our polluted streams and lakes; the manifold occupations and industries of the people; the protection of food stuffs, including milk and other beverages, and of drugs, from adulteration and impurity; the education of physicians, dentists and veterinarians, and barring our doors against the introduction of communicable diseases and pestilence from foreign countries.”

“Thus we have a State system of sanitary administration, complete and symmetrical; its head at the seat of power in the State, untrammelled in the exercise of authority, reaching down through the subdivisions of county and township to the people, and a department in daily touch with every nook and corner of the State through its faithful allies, the physicians of the Commonwealth.

“The faithful allies, the physicians of the Commonwealth, are of course only those physicians who belong to and are in good standing in the State and county association.”

The *Medical Mirror* expressed itself thus :

“The American Medical Association is a small part of the American profession. The men who run it are a small part of the association. The council on pharmacy and chemistry is the creature of the dominating clique.”

Dr. George F. Butler, in an able address before the Mississippi Valley Medical Society, thus voices his protest :

“It is monstrous for any man or set of men to forbid the use of any method, any instrument or remedy, or any treatment which, in the opinion of the attending physician, promises success. I repeat, it is an insult to our independence and intelligence that we are not

allowed to read any book or medical journal we please at any time or place, whether in a medical society or the seclusion of our office; to use any remedy we please, whether it be so-called Regular, Homœopathic, Eclectic, Alkaloidal, or Proprietary, or any methods of treatment whatsoever, even though it smack of Christian Science or Osteopathy, without being subjected to public ridicule and criticism by a few self-appointed 'authorities' and 'leaders' in medicine."

The American Medical Association urges all its members not to subscribe for independent medical journals, and, in case they receive such publications as samples, to throw them unread into the waste basket. It cuts off all exchanges with independent journals that dare to criticise its policies. It copyrights all of its own matter, and thus limits the reproduction of its matter in the independent papers.

As the *Journal of Clinical Medicine* well says:

"You can't wipe out the independent journal without getting the permission of the independent editor and the independent doctor, its reader. There will be things for him to say, wrongs to right, excesses to be abated, injustice to be fought, reforms to be advocated until medical science has been swept off the footstool by the triumphant dominion of the millenium. And we have something to say for ourselves. So long as we believe that medicine still falls short of the high ideals that are hers, of the possibilities in the healing and relief of the sick which are within her reach, we shall fight, fight, fight for a truer and better therapy, one which shall deserve the confidence of every doctor and which will eventually come to its own—is coming to its own right now."

And Dr. C. A. Bryce, editor of the *Southern Clinic*, of Richmond, Va., thus gives expression to his warning and protest:

"Come up a little closer, Brother Doctor, and let us tell you what is going on, if you are not already posted. You have read and seen enough about the various trusts organized here and there, and you know that they live by destroying the individual or independent concern. They must make him their slave, or put him out of business—and unless they can control him they destroy him. Now if you do not know it, we will tell you, that there is a medical trust with its head at 103 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. It has a powerful weekly publication and an abundance of money (possibly some of yours), and its chief business and effort just now is an effort to crush out of existence every independent medical journal in the land, and later on when they have crushed your independent journal and your only defender, they will whip you into submission, so that you will only be allowed to read a journal that they print for you, and prescribe just

such remedies as the council of chemistry and pharmacy of the American Medical Association may allow you to prescribe. Now this is no appeal to you for sympathy, or support for our publication individually, but it is a statement of facts which you can easily verify if you will carefully look into the mass of literature which is sent to every doctor who can be reached by the manager of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*."

From the evidence presented, it seems to be clear that the American Medical Association is first behind these bills and behind all persons who are advocating the passage of them and urging that the substance of them become a law; that it, the American Medical Association, is a huge, gigantic organization of physicians belonging to the regular or Allopathic school, who have for years been securing power politically and financially for the purpose of controlling medical legislation, medical practice, the medical journal trade, the medical book trade, and all avenues of profit in any manner relating to the doctor and looking to the aggrandizement and financial benefit of the doctor himself; attempting before various and sundry legislatures, with differing success, to obtain throughout the different States a system of State medicine and to have passed by Congress a bill which eventually, either now or afterward by amendment, in and of itself will give the physicians absolute and complete control over the administration of medicine in the United States of America.

State medicine is akin to State religion. Fortunately, we are protected by our Constitution against State religion, but we are not thus protected against State medicine. The Constitution does provide, however, in terms which cannot be mistaken, that the United States Government shall not interfere with nor trespass upon nor in any manner limit the rights of the different States to administer for themselves, and it is the opinion of many well-versed constitutional lawyers that the United States Government cannot enact laws relating to the police powers of the States that will not be amenable to the Constitution, and it is clear to my mind that laws relating to the health of the people of necessity relate to the police powers of the States and that Congress cannot constitutionally pass any such laws except as they relate to interstate or foreign commerce. In nearly all of the States of the Union there are now State and municipal health boards and laws regulating and governing the same, so that as far as that situation is concerned there is absolutely no necessity at the present time for any board of health to be created and maintained by the National Government. What the American Medical Association seeks to accomplish by the passage of this law is, I think, best stated by Judson Perry

Welsh, Ph.D., Sc.D., dean of the colleges in the Pennsylvania State University, in a paper entitled 'The Medical Profession of the Future':

"Diseases already developed in human bodies and injuries sustained in the various vicissitudes of life will continue in the future as in the past to engage the time and attention of the physician. * * But it seems to me I foresee a new order of things in practice. Instead of a town of 5,000 or 10,000 people having twenty or thirty physicians, each holding himself in readiness to set a fracture, amputate a limb, adjust spectacles to weak eyes, treat fevers, eruptions, diseases of the eye, ear, throat, stomach, lungs, intestines, and so on down the calendar of human diseases, I expect before the middle of the twentieth century that we shall see such towns and probably portions of the surrounding country under the care of a staff of physicians in the employ of the Government—State or, possibly, national.

"This medical staff will have to do with many other things in the community. If a schoolhouse, a dwelling house, an opera house, or a factory is to be built, the plans must be submitted to this staff for approval in order that the heating, ventilation, and sanitary appliances may be correct, and that none of these things may become a menace to the health, and therefore to the happiness and usefulness of any portion of the community; the sewerage system, the water supply of the community, the street cleaning, and, possibly, the house cleaning, will be under the inspection of these medical experts."

Consider carefully the dream of our friend, Judson Perry Welsh, and see if you can come to any other conclusion than that the object behind these various bills is to establish State medicine, and to make the American Medical Association a thoroughgoing, active medical trust, and to place the people of the United States of America completely under the dominion and domination of this association in all things relating to the sanitary and health service. Do you wonder that a protest has gone up from all over the United States against the passage of these bills? Is it a wonder that the people are alarmed at the aggressiveness of these medical men? Is it any wonder that many physicians, Allopathic, Homœopathic, Eclectic and Osteopathic, are protesting against the passage of these bills? Liberty is the cornerstone of our Government, and our people instinctively resent any threatened invasion thereof; and our people will not tolerate any interference with their liberties, no matter from what direction it comes.

LETTER OF EDMUND VANCE COOKE

TO

PROF. IRVING FISHER.

MY DEAR PROF. FISHER:

I am sincerely interested in the conservation of the public health, and just as sincerely interested in medical freedom, as you are, but I own I am not yet able to look upon the establishment of a bureau of health, or a National Department of Health, without suspicion.

Part of this suspicion is based upon the arbitrary and sometimes outrageous acts of municipal and State boards of health already constituted, and to the unjust and sometimes malicious prosecutions under some of our medical laws in various States. I hardly need to call your attention to instances of these, though I can do so if you desire.

Without questioning your fairness of intent, or that of the Committee of One Hundred, many of whom I respect and admire, as every man must, for their various works and accomplishments, I would ask what reason there is for supposing that a National bureau would be any less biased than a State bureau, especially if under the control of medical men, as it naturally would be?

Please note that I am not a Christian Scientist, nor any similar cultist, have patronized members of various schools of medicine, have no commercial interest in any direction either for or against, and number warm friends among the physicians. I feel, therefore, that I am not speaking from prejudices, unless it be a prejudice in favor of human freedom along with human health, when I say that, in my opinion, physicians as a rule are not qualified to be trusted with the absoluteness of executive power appertaining to a departmental head.

Some of them are, of course, but more are not; not from any lack of personal probity, but because of temperament and training. The autocracy of the sick room becomes temperamental. When you, as a professor of economics, make a statement in favor of free trade, there is a protectionist bureau handy to contradict (if it be possible); when I write a poor article there is a conscientious editor handy to waste-basket it; when a lawyer cites poor law, there is an opposing attorney

ready to take advantage of it. But when a physician says thus-and-so to a patient, who is there to say him nay?

Generations of this have generated an autocratic form of thought, both personal and professional. The average physician is impatient of the smallest contradiction or opposition by a layman, and physicians as a class are extremely sensitive to the demands of "professional courtesy" and the *esprit de corps* of their calling. Their professional "class consciousness" is out of all proportion. The rest of us would be the same if similarly trained, so this is not urged against the physician professionally, but departmentally, statistically, scientifically.

The second part of the suspicion I have mentioned comes from some internal evidence in the documents you submit. You state that the Federal Government could not, if it would, regulate the practice of medicine. Doubtless you refer to Amendment X to the Constitution. But if anything could abrogate this Article, a department would be the very thing to accomplish it. * * *

I have every desire to further the "regulation of misbranding drugs and foods," to guard against "the pollution of streams," to further sanitation, and in other ways to promote the public health, but let us be very sure what we are doing before establishing what may become a departmental autocracy.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) EDMUND VANCE COOKE.