

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

PINEHURST, N. C.
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1925

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The North Carolina Public Health Association met in the ball room of the Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst, at ten A. M., and was called to order by the President, Dr. L. L. Williams.

The invocation was pronounced by the Rev. T. A. Cheatham, D. D., of Pinehurst.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL HEALTH WORK IN
NORTH CAROLINA AND ITS FUTURE

L. L. WILLIAMS, M. D.

In considering what subject might most profitably be considered upon this occasion, it occurred to me that a general review of public health activity in this State with some remarks concerning the most promising prospects for the future might not be without benefit.

I will, therefore, endeavor to trace the growth of organized public health work in North Carolina; how it commenced, by what influences it has been stimulated and by what agencies the betterment of conditions has been effected; with the hope that looking on our work from a historical point of view we may better appreciate the importance of what has been done and in the future may profit by the experiences of the past. At the same time we should, of course, bear in mind that our future policies should be influenced not only by our own experience but also by the work of other areas which have to deal with similar problems.

The North Carolina State Board of Health was established in 1877 through the foresight and untiring efforts of Dr. Thomas Fanning Wood, of Wilmington, who had the distinction of being the first secretary, being elected in 1879.

Dr. Wood died in 1882 and was succeeded by Dr. Richard H. Lewis.

The first educational pamphlet was issued by the Board in 1878, the subject being: "The timely aid for the drowned and suffocated." The State Health Bulletin made its appearance in April, 1886, edited by Richard H. Lewis, of Raleigh.