

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

PINEHURST, N. C.
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1928

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The North Carolina Public Health Association met in the ladies' card room of the Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst, at 10 a. m. and was called to order by the President, Dr. John H. Hamilton, Wilmington.

The invocation was said by the Rev. T. A. Cheatham, D.D., Southern Pines.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Dr. C. C. Hudson, Vice-President, appointed the following Committee on the President's Address: Dr. L. J. Smith, Wilson, chairman; Dr. R. L. Carlton, Winston-Salem; Dr. L. J. Corbett, Goldsboro.

The President appointed the following committees:

Committee on Visitors and New Members: Dr. R. L. Carlton, Winston-Salem; Dr. J. A. Morris, Oxford; Dr. R. E. Broadway, Southport.

Committee on Resolutions: Dr. A. C. Bulla, Raleigh; Dr. E. R. Hardin, Lumberton; Dr. J. H. Woodcock, Hendersonville.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

By JOHN H. HAMILTON, M.D., County Health Officer, Wilmington, N. C.

To prepare an inventory of the responsibilities of the health officer, one must assume an introspective state of mind. Day dreaming is sometimes a pleasant occupation. Perhaps if we dream of things as they ought to be, we may be enabled to see some of the responsibilities and opportunities which confront us in every day life. Therefore, let us dream of the health officer not as he is but as he should be.

The responsibility of any person, regardless of position, is the proper understanding of his place in the scheme of things. Can the health officer's place in the community be described better than as physician to the community? The community as a unit is his patient instead of the members of the community being his patients. One of the most just criticisms ever lodged against the Doctor of Medicine as health officer, is that he thinks in terms of individuals rather than of communities. Although medical training tends to emphasize individuals, the medical health officer should endeavor to think of his community as a unit rather than as many individuals.