

PREFACE.

Statutory provisions, prescribing the powers and duties of public officers, are usually so vague and uncertain in their terms, that the official, unless he has had large experience, often has difficulty in interpreting the statute, and frequently is at a loss to know just when and how to comply with its provisions. This is not from want of information or intelligence but from lack of experience. The "Public Health Law" (especially that portion prescribing the powers and duties of boards of health and health officers) is no exception to the general rule.

The purpose of this work is to meet a demand, throughout this State, for a reliable guide to boards of health and health officers in their work of protecting the life and health of the people. The questions which they, in the performance of their respective duties, are called upon to decide are often so complex in character as to require interpretation by the courts. This is especially true when dealing with nuisances, involving the destruction or improvement of private property, and with contagious diseases, involving the restraint, not only of those afflicted, but also of others by whom the disease may be transmitted.

Chapter III of this work is designed especially to aid the board of health and health officer in dealing with these complex questions, as well as others. Es-

pecial attention has been given to the important duties of registering officers; and in this connection acknowledgment should be given to the valuable suggestions made by Mr. George G. Champlin of the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the State Department of Health. The forms (except those prescribed by the State department) are new and in accordance with the provisions of the statute.

While this manual is designed for the guidance of boards of health and health officers, it is the hope of the compiler that it may be found equally valuable to the legal profession, as it gives the statute with annotations and points out lines of procedure which are sanctioned by usage, but with which many are not familiar.

L. L. B.

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