

State Board of Health, Secretary, Duty Of. Compensation Extra, Secretary State Board of Health. Lectures, by Secretary State Board of Health, Compensation For. Duties, of Secretary State Board of Health. Power, State Board of Health.

There is not any law making it the specific duty of the secretary of the state board of health to deliver lectures before teachers institutes, etc., relative to sanitary measures, conditions, etc.

State board of health has power to require the secretary to disseminate knowledge by means of lectures, but unless the board has made such order there is no such duty resting upon the secretary.

Helena, Mont., Aug. 1, 1911.

Hon. T. D. Tuttle, Sec'y,  
State Board of Health,  
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th ult., submitting the question as to whether it is your duty as a member of the state board of health to deliver lectures before teachers' institutes, and whether you can legally accept compensation for such lectures in addition to your salary as Secretary of the State Board of Health.

Section 1475 of the Revised Codes in dealing with the powers and duties of the Board to study "vital statistics" and "endeavor to make intelligent use of the records of death and sickness among the people," and to make "sanitary investigations and inquiries regarding the causes of death, etc.," also makes it the duty of such board to diffuse such information among the people.

Section. 1479 of the same code deals more specifically with the duties of the Secretary and among the provisions of that section is the following:

"He shall whenever requested by any local or county health officer, or when he may deem it necessary, visit any district to investigate the cause of any existing disease or sanitary condition; he shall, through an annual report, and otherwise, as the board may direct, disseminate such information as he may collect and general instructions regarding sanitary measures and means of preventing communicable disease."

The law does not specifically make it your duty to deliver lectures before teachers' institutes or to deliver lectures at all. The information you may gather as a public official relative to sanitation, etc., shall be made public through an annual report and otherwise as the board may direct. Whether or not the state board has ever directed you to disseminate this knowledge through the medium of public lectures, or otherwise than through your annual report, I am not informed. If the board has so directed then it is your duty so to do. If the board has not so directed no such duty rests upon you.

Yours very truly,

ALBERT J. GALEN,

Attorney General.