

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1903.

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THE U. S. MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE.*

GENTLEMEN: I beg leave to express my pleasure in meeting you at this assemblage, called by myself in accordance with section 7, of the act of congress approved July 1, 1902.

What may be the result of these annual conferences time must determine, but certainly we may consider the present, the first annual conference under the law, as a most noteworthy event. For the first time in the history of the United States there has been placed within its statutes, by the act of Congress referred to, a provision looking to harmonious and cooperative efforts in public health matters between the national government and the state governments.

This status has long been desired, but difficult of achievement by reason of our republican form of government. It has been difficult for the national government to extend its influence into state health matters without appearing to infringe upon the states' authority, and it has been difficult for the states, individually or collectively, to seek aid from the government without appearing to surrender authority reserved to them by the national constitution. In the meantime, however, the

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

* Opening address before the first annual conference of State and National Health Authorities, Washington, D. C., June 3, 1903.