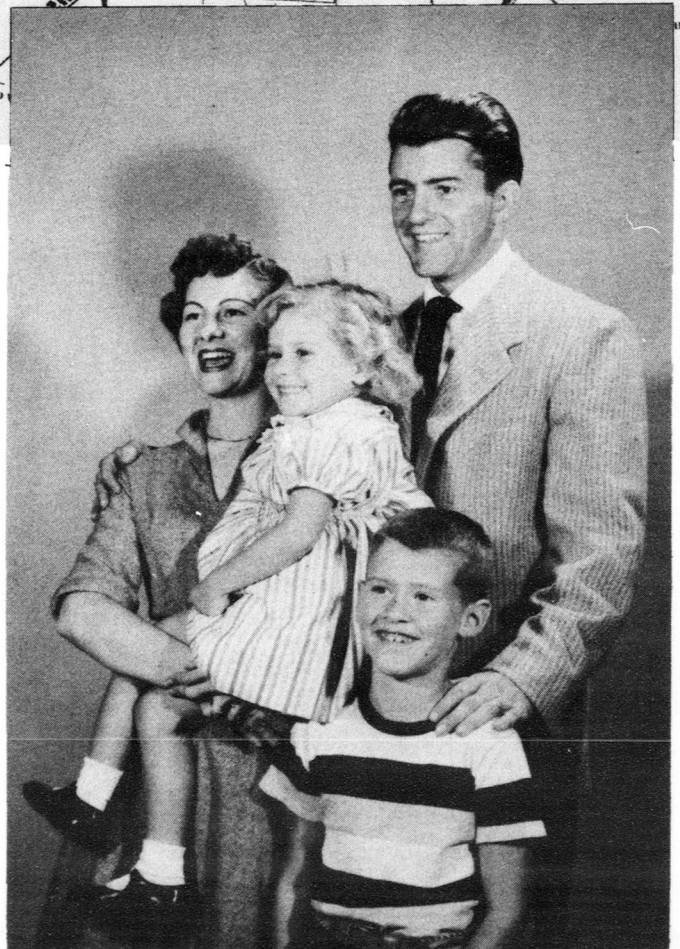


# 80 years of public health

In little more than the Biblical span of life—from the days of the founding of the American Public Health Association and early grapplings with the communicable diseases to a time of confidence that we can add "life to years"—the sciences of public health have played a major and continuing role in transforming and enriching human destiny.



see overleaf and special section

*On the origins of the*

## American Public Health Association

1872-1873

ON THE 18th of April 1872, an informal conference of a number of gentlemen, who for several years had been in some degree co-workers in the studies of Preventive Medicine and in duties of public sanitary service, was held in the city of New York, with the design to secure concerted effort, and establish some adequate plans in the cultivation of hygienic knowledge, and procuring more effective applications of sanitary principles and laws. . . .

The first meetings of the Association have resulted in the cheerful contribution of reports and papers upon important sanitary questions, rather than in voluble debates; the rich fruit of careful observation and study, comprehensive surveys relating to epidemics and other diseases, and logically studied truths which are required for the basis and structure of true sanitary science and for the most effective methods and proceedings in public health administration. . . .

The golden maxim of Franklin that "Public Health Is Public Wealth," is obviously true in all communities, but the same maxim now finds a higher significance in the ascertained relationship of sound and vigorous health to the social and moral interests of individuals, families, and nations.

The chief problems of civilization and humanity now demand their solution upon a basis of most exact and compre-

hensive knowledge of facts reduced to the deductions and formulas of science, and it is not arrogating unreasonable functions for the principles and the public applications of sanitary science, to say that the physiological health of the people so far underlies soundness and sufficiency of mental culture that hygiene will have to be recognized as a fundamental element of success in common education and in the higher culture, as well as in the practical solution of the great social and moral problems of our times. . . .

In this volume of Sanitary Papers the records of two deadly epidemics—the fatal strides of cholera in the great valley west of the Alleghenies, and the invasion of Shreveport and Memphis by yellow fever when those cities were utterly defenseless, unguarded, and un-

*Continued on page 82.*

**frontispiece** The map of Lowell, Mass., is from William T. Sedgwick's report "On Recent Epidemics of Typhoid Fever in the Cities of Lowell and Lawrence Due To Infected Water Supply . . ." published in the 24th Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts, for the year ending September 30, 1892. The family group is from the Public Health Service's 1952 APHA exhibit (see special section, page 81 ff.).

# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS



G. ST. J. PERROTT, *Managing Director*  
*Chief, Division of Public Health Methods*

## EDITORS

*Chairman of the Board of Editors*  
EDWARD G. MCGAVRAN, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Chapel Hill*

HOWARD ENNES, M.P.H.  
*Executive Editor*

TAFT S. FEIMAN  
*Managing Editor*

WINONA E. CARSON  
*Asst. Managing Editor*

## BOARD OF EDITORS

GAYLORD W. ANDERSON, M.D., DR.P.H.  
*Minneapolis*

BASIL C. MACLEAN, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Rochester*

JUSTIN M. ANDREWS, Sc.D., LL.D.  
*Atlanta*

GERARD PIEL, A.B.  
*New York*

HALBERT L. DUNN, M.D., PH.D.  
*Washington*

M. ALLEN POND, M.P.H.  
*Washington*

MARTHA M. ELIOT, M.D., Sc.D.  
*Washington*

FILLMORE SANFORD, PH.D.  
*Washington*

RUTH FREEMAN, R.N., Ed.D.  
*Baltimore*

GEORGE M. UHL, M.D., M.S.P.H.  
*Los Angeles*

JOHN W. KNUTSON, D.D.S., DR.P.H.  
*Washington*

RUSSELL M. WILDER, M.D., PH.D.  
*Bethesda*

## FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY

OSCAR R. EWING, *Administrator*

## PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

LEONARD A. SCHEELE, *Surgeon General*