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Samuel J. Crumbine, M.D.

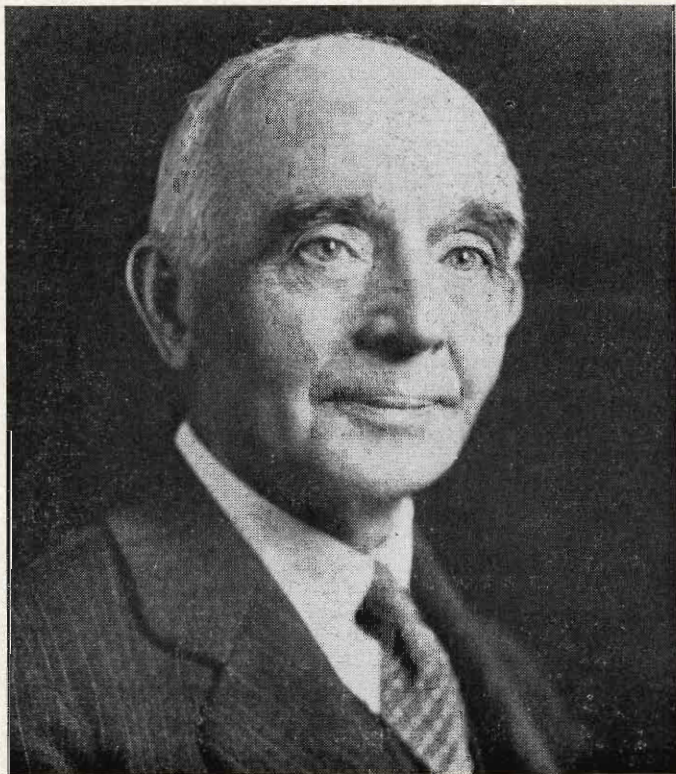
Kansas Pioneer Health Officer



K. P. H. A. Dinner

Wichita, Kansas

June 6, 1946



SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE, M. D.

S A L U T E !

It is the great pleasure and privilege of the Kansas Public Health Association to have Doctor Crumbine as a special honor guest and featured speaker at the dinner meeting of the Association, June 6, 1946, at the Broad-view Hotel, Wichita.

The nation acclaims Doctor Crumbine for his service to mankind, and Kansans, with gratitude and pride, pay tribute to this pioneer health officer whose health programs saved many lives in the Sunflower State and served as a pattern of public health practice in other states.

Doctor Crumbine's continued interest in Kansas is affirmed by his willingness to make the journey from his home in Long Island, N.Y., to Wichita, and for this the members of the Kansas Public Health Association are truly grateful.

Signed by the Officers

Mr. Paul D. Haney, President
Fred Mayes, M.D., President-elect
Oscar Harvey, M.D., Vice President
Mr. Evan Wright, Secretary
Edna Cheney, R.N., Treasurer
and
Executive Committee.

In addition to the officers, this Committee includes: F. C. Beelman, M.D., Clara Johns, M.D., and Mary Bure, R.N.

HIS YEARS IN KANSAS

Doctor Crumbine is a native of Pennsylvania, but, like many young Easterners, "went West" to start his career as a physician, bringing with him his bride. They made their home in Dodge City, Kansas, and through his private practice, Doctor Crumbine became recognized as one of the prominent physicians of the State.

He was appointed by the Governor as a member of the Kansas State Board of Health in 1898, and six years later was elected by the Board to fill the position of Secretary and Executive Officer.

Doctor and Mrs. Crumbine and their children, Warren and Violet, moved to Topeka in 1904, soon made friends and became a part of the social, religious, and cultural life of the community.

While working in China, in 1917, Warren contracted a fatal illness.

After Doctor Crumbine had served, with great distinction, as Secretary and Executive Officer of the Kansas State Board of Health for nineteen years, he accepted a position with the American Child Health Association, and the family moved to New York City. Violet married a former Kansan, Charles Chrisman, who had been a part-time employee of the Kansas State Board of Health, while attending Washburn College. The Chrismans live in New York City and Mr. and Mrs. Crumbine are living in Jackson Heights, Long Island, New York.

Although Doctor Crumbine retired from active work in public health several years ago, he is called upon to

serve as a consultant by committees working on health problems. His experience and his opinions are highly respected by his many friends and colleagues; many honors have come to this unassuming, distinguished man.

PUBLIC HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

June 2, 1904—appointed Secretary and Executive Officer of the Kansas State Board of Health.

July, 1905—he issued the first monthly bulletin of the State Board of Health.

September 1, 1905—he collected the first samples of food and submitted them to the State University Chemist for analysis, thus inaugurating a campaign against the adulteration of food products in the State.

July, 1906 — "SWAT THE FLY" Campaign began. While attending a ball game, he heard the cry "Swat the Ball"—and with the health of the people always in his consciousness, he thought — why not "Swat the Fly"? So he started a campaign against this disease-carrying insect, and his enthusiasm caught the public fancy—city officials paid a bonus for dead flies by the quart, and children by the hundreds trudged to the city hall to collect their earnings.

March 7, 1907—as the result of Doctor Crumbine's efforts, the new food and drug bills became laws, and four inspectors were appointed to enforce the laws, collect samples and make sanitary inspection of premises of food handlers, under the supervision of an Assistant Chief Food and Drug Inspector.

March, 1907—Water and sewage bills were passed by the State Legislature, and field sanitation work was started for the first time. The Legislature passed bills requiring reporting of tuberculosis by physicians, within 24 hours of diagnosis, to the county health officer. Amendments to the water and sewage laws gave the Board of Health jurisdiction over operation of all water plants and sewage systems in the State, regardless of their time of construction, and authorizing investigation of stream pollution by industrial wastes; the law relating to Health Officers was strengthened and provided for removal from office for neglect of duty.

March 31, 1907—a red-letter day—the Board of Health passed a regulation abolishing the "common drinking cup" in public places. Doctor Crumbine was riding on a train—he saw a passenger (who later proved to be an advanced case of tuberculosis, on his way to Arizona) fill a cup from a water cooler, and drink from it; then he refilled the cup and gave it to a little girl, who also drank. They started back to their seats. On the way, the man was seized with a paroxysm of coughing. Just then, the conductor came into the car, filled the cup, but before he could drink, he heard a cry—"Stop"—and Doctor Crumbine dashed down the aisle, seized the cup and threw it away. That very night, sure that he had found one of the common causes of the spread of tuberculosis, he started his campaign to abolish the common drinking cup. He met with heavy opposition from newspapers, railroads, and politicians — but he never faltered in his one-man crusade, and two years later—this red letter day came, when the common drink-

ing cup was banned by the Kansas State Board of Health.

July 1, 1907—He began to work as a full-time health officer.

December 3, 1908—He was elected the first president of the newly organized Kansas Society for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, and within the next six months the Kansas Legislature appropriated \$20,000 to carry on a state-wide educational campaign against tuberculosis, and passed a bill requiring the reporting of all cases of tuberculosis.

1910—The distribution of free diphtheria antitoxin for treatment of indigent persons was started.

1911—He was elected Dean of the School of Medicine of Kansas University, and held this position for eight years in addition to his duties as state health officer; one of the first things he did, as Dean of the Medical School, was to start a new course, "Sanitary engineering," which resulted in the first union of curative and preventive forces in the field of public health.

June 12, 1911—A ruling was made by the State Board of Health prohibiting, after September 1, 1911, the common roller towel, in hotels, railway trains, and in public and private schools. This was the result of another crusade of Doctor Crumbine, after the father of a Manhattan girl called for investigation of her case of syphilis; the girl had used a towel in a public building; and a bacteriologist of the University later isolated the spirochetes of syphilis from such a towel.

1911—The laws requiring registration of all births and deaths were passed, and in June 12 of this year, the Vital Statistics Division was created.

1913—The Legislature allowed \$4,500 a year to the Division of Communicable Diseases for research work, and an Epidemiologist was employed.

June 5, 1914—Free distribution of prophylactic solution for eyes of the new-born was authorized, as was distribution of free smallpox vaccine to physicians of the State.

1915—The Division of Child Hygiene was created by action of the Legislature, and the Division was activated in June of that year. He was elected president of the Association of Food and Drug Officials of the United States.

1917—The Public Health Car "Warren" started on its first trip of scheduled visits to Kansas communities, to disseminate health education. The car was named in memory of Doctor and Mrs. Crumbine's son.

1919—The first full-time county health officers were appointed for Geary, Marion, and Cherokee Counties.

1919—A new division of Venereal Disease Control was established, with a full-time director.

1920—A public health laboratory was established at Washburn College, with a new director replacing work formerly done by a bacteriologist in her home.

June 5, 1923—After nineteen years of outstanding service as Secretary and Executive Officer of the Kansas State Board of Health, Doctor Crumbine resigned to accept a position with the American Child Health Association, of which Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, was President.

Starting as part-time public health officer in 1904, with a secretary as the only other employe of the Board of Health, Doctor Crumbine became one of the most dynamic and effective health officers in the nation. During the nineteen years he devoted to public health work in Kansas, the State enjoyed constantly lowering death rates from preventable causes—incontrovertible proof of the value of his service, and of sound judgment in starting health programs that placed Kansas among the leading states in safeguarding the health of the people. Doctor Crumbine will forever hold a high place of esteem and affection in the hearts of the people of Kansas.

"In nothing do men more nearly approach the gods than in giving health to men."—Cicero, Pro Ligario XII.