

Vital Statistics [Sever Winter]

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records in the office of the State Board of Health showed that in the county named a party corresponding to the name given had died, that he was a native of England, married, etc.; the date and cause of death; place of burial; and name of the attending physician. The facts were reported to the wife and a letter received from her later expressed her gratitude and appreciation at the information furnished, sad as it was.

There have been innumerable instances where parents have sought official information respecting the birth or death of their children and where parents have looked for a record of their marriage. In counties where the original records have been destroyed by fire or otherwise, the copies of these records deposited safely with the State are of inestimable advantage.

The foregoing is suggestive of what the State has aimed to do in the way of collecting vital statistics; what it has done; what it has failed to do and the cause of such failure as well as some of the benefits of such statistics. It also suggests the duty of the legislature to so amend our present law as to cure its defects and assure such a registration in the future as will reflect the intelligence of our people, and place our State on an equality with the most progressive States in the Union.

DES MOINES, IOWA, NOVEMBER 19, 1903.

THE PRESENT has been one of the severest winters experienced since the first settlement of the west. *The Dubuque Express* of the 17th inst. says that, in the morning of that day, the mercury stood at 40 degrees below zero. At Galena on the 7th, it was 32 below zero. We have had colder weather, and a great deal more of it than in any of the thirteen winters we have spent in the west.—*Bloomington (Muscatine) Herald, Feb. 24, 1843.*

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