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# Vermont State Board of Health

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RUTLAND, VT.  
1918

## DR. CHARLES S. CAVERLY.

PRESIDENT VERMONT STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, 1891-1918

Charles Solomon Caverly, Sc.D., M.D., died at his home in Rutland, October 16, after a brief illness of influenza with complications. Dr. Caverly had been in poor health for two years and last winter he was obliged to give up his work and go to Florida, where he stayed during the cold weather. He had done very little professional work since that time, but, during the epidemic of influenza, exerted himself more than usual in responding to calls of patients, eventually becoming himself a victim of the disease.

Dr. Caverly was born in Troy, N. H., September 30, 1856, the son of Abiel Moore and Sarah L. (Goddard) Caverly. Philip Caverly, his great-grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His father practiced medicine in Troy, N. H., and at Pittsford, Vt. Dr. Caverly was educated in the high schools of Pittsford and Brandon and prepared for college at Kimball Union Academy at Meriden, N. H. He was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1878 and from the Medical Department of the University of Vermont in 1881, where he was class leader and the recipient of three prizes. He also studied for eighteen months at the College of Physicians and Surgeons and under private instruction in New York, beginning practice in Rutland in 1883 when he was associated with Dr. Middleton Goldsmith.

While Dr. Caverly was recognized as one of the leaders in his profession in the state and country, it was pre-eminently with public health that he was most identified. He became connected with the Vermont State Board of Health in 1890 and was elected to the presidency of the Board in 1891, holding that office continuously until his death, twenty-seven years. Throughout this long term of service, his interest never flagged and he was always alive to the opportunities and duties connected with the work of the Board. To him may be justly credited a large share of the progressive legislation which has kept Vermont among the leading states in regard to public health matters.

In addition to his State Board of Health work, Dr. Caverly was also Professor of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine in the University of Vermont. Some of the other offices which he has filled are as follows:

Health officer of Rutland, assistant surgeon 1st regiment, Vermont National Guard, president Rutland County Medical Society in 1893, president Vermont State Medical Society in 1892, director and vice-president Rutland Hospital Association, vice-president and director Pittsford Sanatorium, director American Public Health Association and counsellor for New England District, Fellow American Medical Association. He was a charter member of Rutland Country Club, a member of Phi Beta Kappa in Dartmouth, a member of the Congregational Church of Rutland and also



CHARLES S. CAVERLY, Sc. D., M. D.  
1856-1918

connected with the Masonic Lodges. He recently received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Vermont on account of his distinguished services in the interest of public health.

In the study of poliomyelitis and tuberculosis, Dr. Caverly was recognized as a national authority. He was author of the first published article in this country reporting poliomyelitis as an epidemic disease. His biennial reports of epidemics in Vermont since 1910 have been regarded as distinct additions to literature on the subject. He was also intimately connected with the study of tuberculosis and at the time of his death was a member of a committee whose purpose is the study of relationship between tuberculosis and dusty trades.

Dr. Caverly is survived by his wife, Mabel Alice Tuttle Caverly, and one sister, Mrs. H. H. Swift of Pittsford. A son, Harley T., died in 1910, at the age of twenty-three years, while taking a post-graduate course in medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. Had he lived, Harley would have been the third Caverly in the direct line to practice medicine. He died while his father was absent in Europe.

The State Board of Health at its meeting on November 8 passed the following resolution:

The death of Dr. Charles S. Caverly, occurring at his home in Rutland on October 16, 1918, has broken our Board by removing one who for twenty-seven years has served as its president, and whose place can never be filled.

Dr. Caverly's sterling worth of character, strong personality and professional ability made him a strong tower on whom we were accustomed to lean and his judgment on various perplexing matters which came up for decision was unvaryingly sound and good. He was always progressive and to him must be credited a large share of the advanced legislation and public health regulations which have made Vermont a recognized leader among the states of the Union. His studies of communicable disease, especially poliomyelitis and tuberculosis, gave him an honored place among the foremost national medical authorities.

Realizing our loss, we desire to express our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Caverly and his many friends, and hereby order that this resolution be entered in the minutes of this Board and a copy sent to the family of Dr. Caverly and published in the press of the state.

The esteem in which Dr. Caverly was held by his personal friends is shown by the tribute written by the editor of the Rutland Herald who had long been associated with him in various personal and public capacities.

## A PERSONAL TRIBUTE

Perhaps the most striking characteristics of Charles S. Caverly as a public man were his absolute justice and his fearless adherence to a plan of conduct once conscientiously adopted. He was faithful to every trust, both public and private, and his word was an instrument on which men soon learned to rely.

He took his profession seriously, was successful therein himself and helped many young men to become successful. In late years he sacrificed self and profit for public service, giving to the public health energies and abilities which would have meant large financial gains had he employed them solely in compensated practice.

It will never be known just how much Dr. Caverly gave to Vermont and the wider public of the country, but at the last it may truthfully be said that he gave his life, because, had he relinquished the duties and responsibilities of his public work for the well-earned relaxation of private life, the chances are that he would be alive today.

Among his intimate friends, Charles S. Caverly was an eminently human companion. He was fond of good company, dearly loved a joke and was a devoted lover of Vermont's outdoors. Although he regarded the practice of medicine with the most serious respect, he was by no means a one-idea man, but possessed a rich intellectual store of general knowledge, with considerable insight into matters of literature and art, acquired and cultivated during a life of active reading and observation, both at home and abroad.

He took no active personal part in politics, but may fairly be credited with fathering all the advanced legislation on public health which has passed Vermont Legislatures in the past 15 or 20 years, with the result that both in legislation and practice, the state is a recognized leader. In addition, he succeeded in building up a department of research in connection with the state laboratory of hygiene, which has at times astounded the medical world with the originality and importance of its discoveries.

Personally, Dr. Caverly was a genial and gracious host, a faithful friend and an honest man. During the years in which he has lived among us his life and private character have not only been above reproach, but an ideal and inspiration in an age which does not regard such old-fashioned virtues as highly as it should.

As physician, friend and citizen, Rutland and Rutland people will not only miss him now, but will form an enhanced estimate of his character and worth as the years pass and the perspective of time fixes his place among the men who have made the world a little better as they passed along.

—H. L. H.

## RAVAGES OF THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

*Deaths in America Greatly Outnumber War's Casualties Among American Troops.*

The influenza epidemic has thus far taken a much heavier toll of American life than has the great war. The total loss of life throughout the country is not known, but the Bureau of the Census has been publishing, for 46 large cities having a combined population estimated at 23,000,000, weekly reports showing the mortality from influenza and pneumonia. These reports, which cover the period from September 8 to November 9, inclusively, show a total of 82,306 deaths from these causes. It is estimated that during a similar period of time the normal number of deaths due to influenza and pneumonia in the same cities would be about 4,000, leaving approximately 78,000 as the number properly chargeable to the epidemic. The total casualties in the American Expeditionary Forces have recently been unofficially estimated at 100,000. On the basis of the number thus far reported, it may be assumed that the deaths from all causes, including disease and accidents, are probably less than 45 per cent and may not be more than 40 per cent of the total casualties. On this assumption, the loss of life in the American Expeditionary Forces to date is about 40,000 or 45,000.

Thus, in 46 American cities having a combined population of only a little more than one-fifth the total for the country, the mortality resulting from the influenza epidemic during the nine-weeks' period ended November 9 was nearly double that in the American Expeditionary Forces from the time the first contingent landed in France until the cessation of hostilities.

For the 46 cities taken as a group, the epidemic reached its height during the two weeks ended October 26, for which period 40,782 deaths were reported—19,938 for the week ended October 19 and 20,844 for the following week. Since October 26, however, the decline has been pronounced. During the week ended November 2, 14,857 deaths occurred, and during the following week only 7,798. The only city in which the number of deaths reported for the week ended November 9 exceeded the number occurring during the previous week was Spokane, Washington.

In general, the epidemic traversed the country from east to west. In a number of eastern cities—notably Boston, where the greatest mortality occurred during the week ended October 5—the largest numbers of deaths were reported for earlier periods than that which covered the height of the epidemic for the 46 cities taken as a group. On the other hand, in New Haven, New York, Pittsburg, and Rochester the maximum mortality occurred somewhat later than in eastern cities generally. In Baltimore, Buffalo, and Philadelphia, the two-weeks' period ended October 26 showed the greatest number of deaths. For the entire nine-weeks' period, the greatest mortality due to the epidemic, in proportion to population—7.4 per one thousand—occurred in Philadelphia; and the next greatest—6.7 per 1,000—was reported for Baltimore.

The epidemic in Vermont began about the middle of September. Washington County appeared to be the center of infection at first with the City of Barre particularly affected. Later the disease spread in all parts of the state, practically no town being exempt. Some of the towns which suffered most were:

	Cases.
Middlebury .....	552
Vergennes .....	290
Lyndon .....	532
St. Johnsbury .....	2,984
Burlington .....	1,234
Brighton .....	218
St. Albans .....	2,250
Highgate .....	415
Stowe .....	245
Brandford .....	300
Randolph .....	400
Barton .....	525
Troy .....	430
Fair Haven .....	293
Rutland City .....	750
Proctor .....	524
Wallingford .....	327
Barre City .....	2,645
Montpelier .....	3,000
Northford .....	537
Hartford .....	934
Windsor .....	442

The total number of cases actually reported amounted to 30,555; total deaths, 1,089 including those assigned to pneumonia or influenza.

An order for statewide restrictions of public gatherings was promulgated October 4 but, in a large number of towns, local restrictions had already been placed on the public before the state order. A number of towns also continued their local restrictions after the state order had been vacated November 3rd.

Dr. W. T. Slayton of Morrisville has been appointed a member of the Vermont State Board of Health to succeed Dr. Charles S. Caverly. Dr. F. Thomas Kidder of Woodstock has been elected President of the Board.

Dr. H. L. Pache of Danville, Vermont, has been appointed inspector of the Vermont State Board of Health to succeed Dr. H. A. Ladd who has taken a position as superintendent of the Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington.

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OF THE

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## REPORT OF THE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE.

The figures below represent the analytical work performed in the Laboratory of Hygiene during the months of August, September and October, 1918.

Cultures from the throat examined for diphtheria bacilli:

	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Positive .....	42	68	88
Negative .....	125	336	240
Total .....	167	404	328

Specimens of blood examined for Widal reaction:

	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Positive .....	37	39	11
Negative .....	68	77	40
Total .....	105	116	51