**Document of the Month: Annual Report of the Indiana State Board of Health**

This month’s document contains the rich, varied history of the Indiana State Board of Health. Early reports included reports to unify and make the office credible. For example, in 1885 then-secretary C.N. Metcalf brought attention to the practice of selecting county health officials with less than desirable qualifications. He insisted that county health officials provide evidence of qualifications and salaries commensurate with the labor required of the position. The early reports contain vital statistics (births, marriages, and deaths) by month and type (diseases, developmental diseases, violence, etc); this kind of reporting offers an early look into the health and health practices of the citizens of the State of Indiana. Another interesting feature of early documents contains diagrams, maps, and letters from county health officers. This document can be found in the Indiana Collection IND 614 I385an 1882-1986.