

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910485608003321
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Titolo	Lucius Polk Brown and Progressive Food and Drug Control : Tennessee and New York City, 1908 -1920 / / Margaret Ripley Wolfe
Pubbl/distr/stampa	University Press of Kansas, 1978 Lawrence : , : Regents Press of Kansas, , 1978 ©1978
ISBN	9780700631315 0700631313
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (194 s.) : : illustrations
Disciplina	614.3/092/4 B
Soggetti	Livsmedelskontroll - biografii - historia - Forenta staterna - 1900-talet Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Based on the author's thesis, University of Kentucky.
Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Frontispiece -- Title Page -- Copyright Page -- Dedication -- Table of Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Introduction -- 2. With Brown in Tennessee: The Right Man, the Right Place, the Right Time -- 3. The Scientist as a Southern Bureaucrat, 1098-11 -- 4. The Scientist and State Politics, 1911-12 -- 5. From Southern State to Northern City: The Scientist in Professional Transition -- 6. The Scientist as a Northern Bureaucrat, 1915-17 -- 7. The Scientist and Urban Politics, 1918: Tammany Hall versus the Experts -- 8. The Exit of a Scientist: From Public Service to Private Citizenship, 1918-35 -- 9. Lucius Polk Brown and Progressive Food and Drug Control: Historical Perspectives -- Bibliographical Notes -- Notes -- Index -- Back Cover.
Sommario/riassunto	Lucius Polk Brown was a professional chemist who became a bureaucrat in the field of public health during the Progressive era, when middleclass reformers first attempted to order American society through integrated systems. In his native state of Tennessee, between 1908 and 1915 Brown created a public health enforcement agency, began educating the masses to public health needs, waged flamboyant campaigns against those who violated the laws, and attracted

widespread support for pure food and drug control. Moving on to become director of the Bureau of Food and Drugs in the New York City Department of Health in 1915, he continued his battle for public health reform amidst the maze of government agencies and political power struggles surrounding Tammany Hall. In many respects Brown was typical of Progressive reformers. A middleclass, AngloSaxon Protestant and a professional, he represented a link between the nineteenthcentury agrarian and the twentiethcentury urbanite. More importantly, Brown exemplified a new character on the American scene: a scientist out of the agricultural experiment station mold entering public life, ready to challenge politicians on their own ground. This book contains fresh insights on the history of the public health movement in America, one area of reform that has not received the attention it deserves. Except for incidental references, the major figures of food and drug regulation at the local level have been largely ignored by historians. Lucius Polk Brown's quest for pure food and drugs is representative of what municipal and state officials, as scientific people, encountered when they fought for the passage of new laws, struggled to enforce existing ones, and battled with the politicians, quacks, ignorance that threatened their efforts. Brown's diversified career provides a unique opportunity for studying a scientific reformer caught up in the political turmoil of the Progressive era. His experience in government service spanned twelve years and touched on two dissimilar political systems. In focusing on Brown's struggles, achievements, and failures, Margaret Ripley Wolfe provides a comparative study of state and municipal health administrations, of bureaucratic development in a rural southern state and a northern metropolis. For that reason this book should be of interest to political scientists and public health officials as well as to social historians and students of the Progressive era.
