

With the increase of population it is hardly possible to find a near-by water shed which is not more or less contaminated by the wastes of human life. Cities have too often either to adopt or continue a suspicious supply, or to trust to methods of filtration for the removal of the disease producing elements. The remedy in some cases is fortunately to be found, as by Rome and Mexico, in bringing water from the distant mountains where it is pure and undefiled. Such a supply could be obtained for this city from the Laurentian Lakes to the north of us. This, or the purification of the water supply through filter beds, is a necessity that must soon be faced by this as by every other city.

Amongst the many further duties of municipal sanitation, I need only mention the inspection of milk, food, fruit, lodging houses, schools, public stables, abattoirs, etc; the prevention of the exposure of meat and bread to dust, flies, and unnecessary handling; the removal of garbage and dead animals, the prevention or at least the limitation of the soft coal smoke nuisance, and the inspection of plumbing. I have mentioned this last because I want to say a word about it. The health of the home and the household is more at the mercy of, and depends more upon, the work of the plumber than the doctor. There may be differences of opinion as to whether or no sewer gas carries the actual micro-organisms of disease; but all, I take it, will agree that the breathing of it in the home and the bedroom is calculated to so lower the resisting power of the body as to make it the more exposed to become the victim of contact infection. In the larger cities there are inspectors of plumbing. There should be such officers in every municipality where there is a drainage system. Soil pipes should pass along the basement ceiling and pass underground only outside the walls, and must be laid under the house. And every joint and fixture should be made and connected by a skilled workman and not by an apprentice. In the book of the Proverbs of Solomon the Son of David, King of Israel, we read that there were three things that were too wonderful for Agur the son of Jakch, yea, four things which he understood not: "The way of an eagle in the air, the way of a serpent upon a rock, the way of a ship in the midst of the sea, and the way of a man with a maid." It has been said that had that wise man lived in our day he would have been tempted to add a fifth cause of wonderment: "the way of a plumber with the drainage of a house." There are doubtless reliable, well-informed men amongst them, but the public should have greater protection. In my opinion, plumbers should be admitted to practice only under a license in sanitary work and drainage, given only after examination,—some similar system to that very rightly required for physicians for the security and protection of the people. And the public should be