

Pollution of Water Supplies

what was by Nature intended for the use of mankind, an ever present and increasing menace to the health of all who use them. Indeed, it is not within the possibility of any one to say with certainty that water which is free from contamination, can be taken at all times from any point in this great tract of fresh water. That this fact has already been brought to the attention of municipal authorities is indicated by the following resolution, adopted by the Lake Michigan Water Commission, Sept. 10th, 1908:

“WHEREAS, Occasionally currents of considerable velocity, say several miles per hour, may be expected to arrive from almost any direction at any point reasonably near either shore of the lake;

“RESOLVED, That while, in the opinion of the Commission, the direction of predominating currents should be considered in determining the relative position of sewer outlets and water-works intakes, nevertheless it is the sense of this Commission that if the waters of the lake are polluted by the discharge into it of large quantities of sewage, then localities in the lake, even 20 or 30 miles distant from the point of entrance of the sewage, and in any direction therefrom, are not safe places from which to derive water for domestic use.”

That the amount of untreated sewage effluent and factory waste has been yearly increasing, is a fact. That municipal authorities, in many instances, have sought to overcome the problem of typhoid outbreaks by a mere extension of the water intake out into deeper water with the object of securing water uncontaminated by sewage, is also a fact. That, in some instances, after making extension of the intake it has been found necessary to provide some system of water filtration