

I do not trust myself on this occasion to speak of the quality of the Montreal water—it would be from me a “thrice told tale.” I have again and again pronounced it “*unfit for human consumption*,” and my medical confreres generally agree with me in this verdict. Still the fountains play and the waters ripple from granite vases, and the cup is offered to the thirsty wayfarer in the name of beneficence, saying, “come and drink.”

I now present to you some samples of water collected on the 10th of May last for our public meeting, and which I should have then shown and spoken about had opportunity offered, and which I regretted was the best refreshment which could at the moment be offered to the thirsty lips of our eloquent President. This water remained muddy for a month, then underwent a kind of fermentation, and finally settled down to its present stagnant and undrinkable condition. For some years my chemical confrere, Dr. G. P. Girdwood, has publicly denounced the unwholesome condition of the city water supply, and the much respected and experienced Editor of the Canada Medical Journal in this month's issue, speaks out bravely to the same effect and fully endorses all that I have said upon the subject:

“The waters of the Ottawa, which flow past our city, come down in a continuous stream several hundred miles from what is termed the height of land, receiving in its course the waters from tributary streams and rivers, so that it drains the entire valley of the Ottawa. In its course downwards it may be said to remove the refuse drainage and sewage of over half a million of people.

“This is a subject which can be discussed by the ‘Citizens’ Public Health Association.’ The water from our house-taps is a kind of animal and vegetable compound, almost as thick as pea-soup, though not quite as savory; and the only means at the disposal of the tenant, with a view to improve its condition, is the use of a private filter. This is a luxury enjoyed by the man of means; the poor man is forced to drink the water as it is supplied, and thinks his water tax heavy enough without an additional tax for a filter. Hence as philanthropists and political economists, we should not only advocate but insist on the use of a public filter. It is a matter of fact based on observation, that the drinking water of Montreal is particularly noxious to strangers.