Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 7, 1914

No. 19

low About Your

THE New York State Charities Aid Association is out with the claim that New York City, from a health standpoint, is a safer place in which to live than is rural New York.

In support of their contention they point to the annual city death-rate of the metropolis of 13.7 per 1,000 of population. The rural rate is 15.4. This is a damaging statement and one which country people can afford to investigate.

"But that is New York," I hear someone say. "Canada is a healthier country anyway." ust wait a minute. A few evenings ago, when

I should have been in bed, I was browsing through some literature sent me from Ottawa by Mr. Frank T. Shutt, Dominion Chemist, relating to this very subject. Mr. Shutt has been examining farm well water submitted to him for sanitary analysis for the past 26 years. Although somewhat lengthy for an article of this kind, Mr. Shutt's conclusions are so important that I will quote him in full. -Here is what this authority

"Reviewing the results obtained since 1887, we find that of the waters so examined 30 per cent. have been classified as safe and wholesome, 25 per cent.

as very suspicious and most probably contaminated, 36 per cent, as seriously polluted, and nine per cent. as non-potable through high salinity. From year to year these percentages will vary somewhat, thus of waters ranking first-class, the lowest percentage in any one season was 22 and the highest 40. In 24 years the proportion of good waters exceeded 30 per cent. in eight seasons only.

"We do not claim that these results represent the condition of the farm supply in general throughout the Dominion. It might be urged that only those who have reason to suspect their supply, either through illness in the family or strong objectionable features in the water itself, are forwarding samples for analysis. It might be pointed out, however, on the other

Rural Health is Often Menaced by Impure Well Water, Be Sure that Your Family is Not One of the Many in Danger

R. P. JACOBS, OXFORD CO., ONT.

hand, that there is a very large class which appears to be totally indifferent as to the quality of the water they use and who do not think it worth while to have their well water examined. Of these waters, we may well suppose there is a large proportion positively unsafe for use,

"As we must all be aware, the farmer has been accustomed to judge of the suitability of a water In this matter I believe we have been very conservative, under rather than over estimating the proportion of dangerous waters in use.'

Isn't that a startling state of affairs? When I first read the results of this analytical work that is being conducted at Ottawa I could not believe that the showing was representative. Observations in my own neighborhood gradually led me to see that conditions are not just as nice as they should be. Every reader of Farm and Dairy knows that typhoid and numerous other diseases are common when there is

is apparently no source of contagion. In not a few cases in my recollection epidemics have been actually traced to the farm well.

The greatest evil is the shallow well. The majority of the wells that have come under my observation are from five to 30 feet deep and fed with surface water. Occasionally I find a well at a distance from the buildings with a windmill established for pumping, but most farm wells are either near the house where slops are being thrown on the ground or in the barnyard, surrounded by all manner of filth. I have seen the drinking trough

for the stock located not over five feet from the pump that supplies the family water supply. In a few years all the soil around such a well is simply soaked with sewage. Lining well to a depth of 10 feet with concrete and protecting the mouth are safeguards but do not remove the danger of the shallow well.

We used to have a shallow well on our farm until we awakened to its danger. Now we have a drilled well that goes down to the pure water in the under strata. This well cost us a nice sum of money, but it is cheaper than doctor's bills, and for all we may know, has staved off the undertaker. Most of the new wells now being sunk are drilled, and this is a good sign. When locating the situation for the well, examine the slope of the ground carefully and place the well (Concluded on page 26)

The Farmer of To-day Who Owns His Farm, Who is Free from Debt, Who Mas Added Improvements and Conveniences and Knows How to Enjey Them, is the Most to be Envied by Anybody en Earth

for drinking purposes by its temperature, appearance, and odor or absence of odor, and we know how very fallacious such signs or qualities may be at times. In the absence of features that make the water objectionable to the senses, the source by the larger number of consumers is considered satisfactory, and there is no effort made towards learning its true condition. Many such waters-clear, brilliant, and odorless-drawn from farm wells and hitherto quite unsuspected of impurity, have been shown by analysis to be most seriously contaminated.

"If the proportion of wholesome, safe-fordrinking waters used on the Canadian farm does not exceed one-third of the whole we have cerainly a sufficiently serious condition to warrant a strong effort being made towards improvement

1914

-draws

\$10 ros

savs: