

zation, of which we are so apt to boast. There are marked signs of improvement however in this respect, and probably no subject coming within the scope of sanitary science is attracting more attention at the present time than that of the disposal of excreta and sewage, and certainly there is no subject of greater importance as regards Public Health.

It is quite evident, it seems to me, that if we wish to prevent decimation in our fair country by typhoid fever, and other diseases arising from impure water, we must either adopt some more general and efficacious method of removing from near our dwellings and disposing of excrement, or otherwise obtain our water supply for domestic purposes from artesian wells. It is well known how easily excretory matters find their way long distances through soil, especially when this is porous. Accumulations too of such matters, as in privy pits and barn yards, are not unfrequently situated in the direction in which water-supply springs set. We find a very large proportion of cases of typhoid fever may be traced to water contaminated with fecal matter; indeed this sort of contamination appears to be the principal cause of the disease.

In the *Societe de Medecine Pratique*, of Paris, a discussion has recently taken place on epidemics of typhoid, from which it seems that in France as in Great Britain and on this continent the belief is becoming universal that the prominent cause of this disease is the impurity of drinking-water. "Instances" (quoting from the *Medical Press and Circular*), "have of late years been so multiplied of the evil effects of the communication of sewage with drinking-water, that there are probably but few physicians who now refuse to admit that this is the chief cause of the occurrence of epidemics of typhoid fever."

At the Society of Arts, London, Eng., in May last, Mr. Jabez Hogg delivered a lecture on "River Pollution, with special reference to the Impure Water Supply of Towns."* The lecturer maintained that by no power of filtration conducted on a large scale can any of the dissolved animal impurities be removed, even the minute animal and vegetable microscopic forms—spores, seeds and ova,—easily passing through most of the filters in ordinary use. He recommends that artesian wells should be sunk far out of the reach of sewage contamination; "having recourse to the large supplies of water stored up in the deepest recesses of the earth." The attention of many is of late being turned to this source of water supply. But even if we obtain water from such sources, if the excrement is not

* *Medical Times and Gazette*.