

disease, and it has for years been known that the source of infection, in the vast majority of cases, is a polluted water supply. Doubtless most people who are stricken are infected through the drinking water, but in many cases the source of infection cannot be directly traced. Thus it sometimes happens that the disease is conveyed through milk, because the dairyman has rinsed out the milk pails with water from an infected source, or perhaps the vendor may have inadvertently permitted a little such water to become mixed in with the milk. Oysters and other shellfish bred in places to which sewage gains access or stored in polluted water, have conveyed the disease to those who have feasted upon them. Vegetables grown on sewage farms have been responsible for many cases. Without doubt the common fly is not infrequently a factor in spreading the disease, by carrying the bacilli from infected materials and depositing them on foodstuffs. And dust may be another means by which the germ of typhoid may be conveyed and deposited on food, such as that exposed in the markets and groceries. But of all the means by which the disease is spread, the water supply is by long odds the most common, and whenever any considerable number of cases exist in a community the water supply may reasonably be at once placed under suspicion.

Here in Halifax we have been having considerable typhoid, and the fact has caused uneasiness, as indeed it should. We, however, have little of it as compared with some other cities—which is said by way of comfort, not justification. Montreal is just now experiencing an unusual incidence of the disease, and the good folk of that city are perturbed in spirit; but I am told that Montreal has been having more than a thousand cases of typhoid annually for years. This is just about what would be expected in a city whose citizens are required to drink the diluted but unfiltered sewage of all the cities and towns on the borders of the Great Lakes, on the streams flowing into them, and on the St. Lawrence and those of its tributaries that are above Montreal. The position of Montreal shows the need for national, or rather international, control of public health matters, for it is obviously impossible for that city to protect in any way the sources of her