

and left exposed on the surface of the ground to see how long it took putrefaction to set in. This surely implied germs as a factor in disease.

The ancients also attached very great importance to an abundant supply of wholesome water. Some years ago the world went into ecstasy over the achievements of science in supplying cities with water from a distance, as the Oroton works of New York, supplying Glasgow from Loch Katrine, etc., etc. But these works sink into insignificance in comparison with the aqueducts of Rome, supplying at the rate of 312 imperial gallons daily to each inhabitant. The importance attached by the Greeks and Romans to bathing is sufficiently attested by the remains of magnificent structures which still excite the admiration of the beholder. It is computed that in the baths of Caracalla as many as 3,000 people could bathe at the same time.

The people of Woodstock may well regard it a privilege to have this conference held here. And I am sure I am safe in saying that the selection has not been made on the principle of "bearding the lion in his den," for Woodstock in respect of location, soil, healthfulness and general prosperity compares favorably with the best towns in the Province. Yet there may be other respects in which the discussions about to take place may have a pertinent reference to ourselves. I said that the Romans ages ago, at an enormous expense, supplied the citizens of Rome with fresh water at the rate of 312 gallons per individual, daily. New York at present is supplied at the rate of 76 gallons per individual, daily. We, in Woodstock, are still trusting to well-water with all that it implies. I am happy, however, to be able to state that the prospects of early improvements in this respect are encouraging, as we have magnificent fresh water springs within easy reach of our town that can be utilized at, comparatively speaking, small expense, and the authorities are making enquiries into the details with the view of taking special action. I might go on to enumerate some other directions in which there is room for improvement, but lest I might be accused of being too particular I will desist, in the hope, however, that our people will keep their eyes and ears open and become possessed of the best information that is known in these respects, and that as soon as these good friends are gone we will proceed at once to carry out their suggestions.

This concluded the interesting and instructive address of the Chairman ; and after the audience had appropriately expressed its appreciation of the Chairman's introductory remarks, the regular papers of the programme were proceeded with.