

no opportunity of ridding itself of impurities through exposure to the air. Under these circumstances only a very small quantity of poisonous matter or gas was necessary to contaminate a large body of water.

After securing the connection between these two reservoirs, and thereby insuring a pure water supply, no new cases occurred. On reviewing this case, we find clear and undeniable evidence in favor of the *de novo* origin of disease. No experiment could be devised to more fully and clearly demonstrate a fact than this accidental and unfortunate occurrence does. We find here an opportunity of putting all *excremental* complications entirely out of the question. Here, water contaminated with putrid matter and gases is found to produce certain characteristic symptoms, which, when the poison is ingested in sufficient quantities, are in a certain number of cases followed by intestinal lesions. Here, cause and effect are clearly demonstrated. In the summer of 1870, the reservoir under the house being then in use, there is no cause for sickness, and the inmates of the Gregory House are free from any unusual sickness. In 1871 a change is made. The reservoir under the house is abandoned and allowed to fill with impure water; the effect is, an epidemic of cholera morbus, followed by several cases of typhoid fever; the cause is found and remedied, and the diarrhoea and vomiting cease. During the summer of 1872, care is taken to keep the water pure, and no sickness occurs. In 1873, the reservoir is for a time neglected, and again the effects are made manifest, for a short time only, however, as the remedy is soon applied. Again, in 1874, the reservoir, through ignorance of its existence, is neglected, and the effects were produced as I have related, and the trouble was stopped when the reservoir was attended to. \* \* \* \*

From eight hundred to one thousand people were to a more or less extent exposed to the poisonous water at the Gregory House last summer. About one hundred of these, or ten per cent., were primarily affected. About twenty-five, or two and a half per cent., developed febrile symptoms; about fifteen, or one and a half per cent., showed typhoidal symptoms; and about five, or one-half per cent., proved fatal—two of these were guests, and three servants.

Dr. Jacobi so aptly and clearly delineated the effect of putrid matter when introduced in various ways and quantities into the human system, in his excellent article on septic enteritis, read before this association not long since, that little or nothing is left for me to say.