

during her illness. The discharges from the bowels were thrown upon a dunghill. Several weeks later, five persons were employed in removing the dunghill, when four became stricken with the disease. The excrement of these four patients being buried deep in the dunghill. Nine months later, two persons were employed in completely removing the dunghill, when one of them sickened with typhoid and died. Granting, then, that air is capable of being instrumental in this way, there can be little difficulty, I think, in seeing how it has assisted in spreading the present epidemic. In many cases, no doubt, the fœces have been thrown upon yards, or neighbouring vacant lots, or into out privies used by a number of people, and have filled the air with the typhoid product. In other cases these fœces have been cast into privies connected with the sewers, and the contents of the sewers have by this and other means been made bearers of the germ, which has escaped from them together with other matters (not necessarily gaseous) on account of defective traps, badly constructed privy vaults, local stoppages of the drain, and other means.

But unfortunately air is not the only medium through which the disease has in all likelihood spread.

Very many instances are upon record where contaminated drinking water has been a fruitful cause. Stuttgart was afflicted with an epidemic in 1872. In 1881, the meadows from which a portion of Stuttgart aqueduct is supplied, had been thickly manured with matters taken from the city sewers. In January, 1872, a thaw occurred, and on February following typhoid became prevalent in that portion of the city supplied by this means, although in other parts the disease was no more prevalent than at ordinary times.

The epidemic, too, which occurred in the valley village of Lausanne, Switzerland, in the same year, and in which one hundred and forty persons were attacked, is even better evidence on this point.

A mountain stood beside this village, and beyond the mountain a valley, in which a few farm houses were situated. From the foot of the mountain Lausanne received its water supply. A case of typhoid occurred in the valley

beyond. The dejections were thrown into a small stream, and immediately upon the meadows of the valley being irrigated for a second hay crop, an epidemic occurred in Lausanne, which had always been peculiarly healthy and free from disease. It was believed that water from beyond the mountain could find its way into the spring whence Lausanne received its water supply.

This was established by salt being put into the stream beyond the mountain, salt appearing on the day following in the Lausanne stream. Thus the poisoned water from the neighbouring valley had found its way by a long underground course into the spring at the base of the mountain, and had borne disease and death into the homes of Lausanne. I need say nothing regarding city water. The source of supply has been condemned by competent authority. But well water is even worse than city water. Numerous families are supplied by wells, whose contents are rendered anything but pure by the soakage which they receive from yard and privy, the latter convenience being in many cases their nearest neighbour.

Again, a great deal of milk is consumed in Toronto, or rather a small amount of milk mingled with a very large proportion of water. It has been shown that only a very small percentage of the vendors deal out unadulterated milk, and the fact of their watering the article is in itself enough to make us sincerely doubtful whether they are scrupulously careful regarding the quality of the water which they employ. Indeed, the appearance of man and outfit in many cases would lead us to suspect that the water thus used had been intended for, and certainly badly needed, in a cause more respectable but decidedly less profitable.

After all, however, it is perhaps as well that the individual does not employ that amount of ablution which we would deem necessary, as in any case he would not be likely to be disposed to waste the water.

In Southport, one case after another was occurring, until in two weeks a total of 28 was reached. The health officer found, to his surprise, that with two trifling exceptions the sanitary condition of the houses was excellent. At last it was discovered that all the families