

not necessary to find typhoid bacilli to condemn a water. If we find an excess of bacteria of any sort we are justified in condemning it on the ground that it indicates an excess of organic matter. Still more is this the case if we find, as we often do, *bac. coli communis*, a non-pathogenic organism found abundantly in the alimentary canal. It in itself does not indicate disease but it certainly means that the water is being contaminated from an animal source and if disease is present that this water is liable to be the medium by which it may be carried.

Not long ago I had a sample sent me, to be examined for typhoid. Well I found no typhoid, in fact would have been surprised if I had. But what I did find was that there was a great excess of NH_3 , nitrites and also nitrates. Bacteriologically it contained per c.c. so many putrefactive organisms that it was impossible to count them. They completely liquified the gelatine plate in twenty-four hours. There was no need to find typhoid bacteria. The water was as bad as it well could be and yet to the naked eye this was a clear, bright, pure looking water.

