

Many others cities derive water of almost precisely the same physical, chemical and bacteriological characteristics as that of Quebec, from watersheds no more thickly populated. That cities using such water without purifying it escape with a relatively low amount of typhoid fever among the consumers is due to nothing more or less than good fortune. The only thing required to create an epidemic of disease among the consumers of such water is a single case of typhoid fever on the water shed, and the discharge of the wastes of this sufferer into the stream from which the supply is drawn. Absence of typhoid on the watershed unquestionably is the reason why Quebec has escaped thus far, but let typhoid make its appearance on the watershed and it is well-nigh a certainty than an outbreak in the City will follow. This has been the experience in numerous cities, and one case of typhoid is quite sufficient to cause an epidemic of prodigious proportions among the users of water contaminated by his excrements.

THE NEEDS OF QUEBEC

Concisely stated, there is no doubt that the water supply of the City of Quebec should be filtered. That is the only practicable manner in which the existing supply can be made wholly safe hygienically, and satisfactory from the standpoint of appearance. Public water supplies taken from rivers and lakes are never to be considered safe and satisfactory for human consumption until this is done. Unqualifiedly I recommend that steps be taken immediately looking to the construction of a filtration plant at Quebec. It is urgently necessary as a safeguard against disease, which, under the conditions now existing, may at any moment come from the water supply. It is desirable for the reason that clean water, that is clear and colorless water, is one of the chief prerogatives of a progressive people.
