

TYPHOID FEVER AT OTTAWA

To have about fifteen hundred cases of typhoid fever in one year is a serious matter for any city, more especially when that city is situated in a country which is inviting emigrants to go to it, with the promise that all the surroundings and conditions tend towards health and prosperity. Such a record, however, is held by Ottawa, in Canada, and the public authorities have had a year of anxiety and trouble. They have sought the aid of the scientists and bacteriologists of Canada to help find the source of infection, with the result that these have fixed it upon the water supply. To add to their troubles, many inhabitants have brought actions against the corporation, claiming damages for all manner of supposed and real sufferings, some even going so far as to claim for the cost of fuel which they have used for boiling the water to render it safe for drinking purposes. This may be playing rather low, but the purpose has been attained, in that those responsible have resolved upon a drastic measure in order to try and stop the epidemic. According to a telegram from Toronto, from the correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, the Dominion Government has determined to invite Dr. Houston, Director of Water Examination for the Metropolitan Water Board, to visit Ottawa, and examine the water and means of supply. He is also to have power to submit plans for such reorganization as may be deemed necessary to secure immunity in the future. Dr. Houston is well qualified to carry out such a task. His long experience with the variations of London water places him in a unique position. Apart from this, he has acted as bacteriologist to the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, and formed one of the International Commission of Experts appointed in 1907 to inquire into the water supply of Cairo, and he is the author of many valuable reports on water pollution as found in different parts of this country. We congratulate Dr. Houston upon this latest compliment to his exceptional abilities and talents.

—*The Sanitary Record.*