

## Causes of Typhoid Fever.

A careful examination of statistics from various cities in Europe and America indicate clearly that an impure water supply is the greatest known cause of typhoid fever. Unclean streets and dirty alleys may generate some cases of typhoid fever, but the disease germs which are developed and spread by means of such streets and alleys are those of other diseases almost as much to be dreaded as typhoid fever. The most recent example of the great and immediate decrease in deaths from typhoid fever, and of the disease itself is found in Jersey City, N. J. That city was using water from the Passaic river, until during the last part of 1895, when arrangements were completed by which pure water from the mountain at Paquanock was mixed with the impure Passaic water by pumping less and introducing an increased amount of the pure water into the same aqueduct which supplied that city. During January, 1896, the proportions of pure and impure water mixed were 28 and 72 per cent., respectively, resulting in 28 deaths during that month. During February the proportions were 40 per cent. pure, 60 per cent. impure, 30 deaths; March, 43 per cent. pure, 57 per cent. impure, 16 deaths; April, 58 per cent. pure, with 42 per cent. impure water, reduced the number of deaths to 9 during that month. During May of the same year 50 per cent. pure with 50 per cent. impure caused 6 deaths; June, 80 per cent. pure, 20 per cent. impure, 3 deaths; August, 76 per cent. pure, 24 per cent. impure, 3 deaths; September, 70 per cent. pure, 30 per cent. impure, 3 deaths; October, 89 per cent. pure, 11 per cent. impure, 4 deaths; November, 100 per cent. pure with no impure Passaic water, resulted in but one death in that month. Subsequent records in that city show but little trouble from typhoid fever from the pure water now used.

Newark, N. J., had a similar but more striking experience with this fever, up to within about five years, when the pure water supply suddenly reduced the number of deaths to less than two per cent. suffered by that city when it used impure river water.

Chicago is a noted example of the terrible scourge of typhoid fever due to the sewage flowing into the lake, and the lake water being pumped back into the city for drinking and cooking purposes. The reports of the health officer there show that typhoid fever killed more than three per cent. of the total persons dying from all causes during 1896. It has been pointed out that the legal value of the human life thus sacrificed in one year was \$3,750,000. If the medical treatment is added, we would have a sum exceeding \$5,000,000. It is no wonder that a drainage canal, costing what it may, will be economical in Chicago, if thereby the lake water can be freed from typhoid germs.—*Municipal Engineering.*

## A Bicycle By-Law.

The following by-law has been passed regulating the use of bicycles in the Galt.

1. No person shall ride or drive a bicycle or bicycle tandem or other vehicle of a similar character upon or along any public street, park, lane, or other public place at a rate of speed faster than eight miles an hour. And when turning corners, at a rate of speed not faster than four miles an hour.

2. No person shall ride or drive a bicycle or bicycle tandem or other vehicle or machine of a similar character upon or along the sidewalk of any public street, highway, or lane, or any other public place within the town of Galt, or along the footpaths of any park.

3. Any person riding or driving a bicycle, bicycle tandem or other machine of a similar character shall keep to the centre of the road, and when passing any other bicycle or vehicle, other than a street car, travelling in the same direction shall pass to the right.

4. Any person riding or driving a bicycle, bicycle tandem or other vehicle or machine of a similar character, when overtaking any other bicycle or vehicle, other than a street car travelling in the same direction shall pass to the left of the bicycle or vehicle.

5. No person shall ride or drive a bicycle, bicycle tandem or other vehicle of a similar character without having at all times one or both hands on the handle bar of such machine, nor shall any such bicycle, bicycle tandem, or machine or vehicle of a similar character be ridden at any time recklessly or in any manner or position in which the rider loses the control of the machine.

6. No person shall ride or drive a bicycle, bicycle tandem or other vehicle, or machine of a similar character at any time without giving audible warning while approaching or passing over street crossings or intersections, or when approaching pedestrians who may be on or passing over the roadway of any street.

7. No person riding or driving a bicycle, bicycle tandem or other vehicle or machine of a similar character shall carry any child or children under five years of age on such bicycle, bicycle tandem or other vehicle or machine of a similar character.

8. No person riding or driving a bicycle, bicycle tandem or other vehicle or machine of a similar character shall coast down any hill in the town of Galt.

9. That every bicycle, bicycle tandem or other vehicle or machine of a similar character in use in the town of Galt after dark shall carry a lighted lamp.

It will be noticed that it is not compulsory to carry a bell, an "audible warning" of any description being sufficient warning to pedestrians of the approach of a bicycle. It was thought that the ringing of a bell would often lead only to confusion, and cause the accident it was intended to avert.—*Reporter.*

## Compressed Air for Street Railways.

Compressed air motors have been in successful operation in France for many years, and they are now rapidly establishing themselves in public favor in the United States. They have been constructed and contested at Rome, N. Y., continuously for two years, in all conditions of weather, and have given satisfaction even at temperatures below zero. Several motors are now, and have been, running for some months on the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street Railway, in the city of New York, in daily service, without having lost a trip and with great satisfaction to the public.

Very erroneous opinions have been, and are yet, entertained in regard to the power lost in compressing air, the frost produced in expansion, the danger of explosion, the reheating of dry and moist air, the cost of plant, the necessity for frequent renewals of air supply, the possible length of run, the loss by transmission of air to distant points and other matters connected with the practical application of air as a motor power. The general advantages of this form of motive power are summed up as follows: An important advantage of compressed air motors is found in the fact that each motor is independent and unaffected by any derangement of feed or trolley wires, cables or dynamos. They can run on any line, in connection with any system, and, if satisfactory, the number can be increased to a full equipment. The steam required for electric or cable lines can furnish the little that is required for an experimental compressor and will be more than sufficient for a full equipment. No outside expenditure whatever is required—no conduits, poles or wires. In this respect it differs from other systems, and permits a test to be made at a minimum cost; but compressed air motors can no longer be considered as experiments. While they may not have attained the utmost limit of perfection of which they are capable, the experience in Europe, in Rome, N. Y., and in the city of New York should be sufficient to satisfy the most skeptical.

Reporter—What shall I say of this man who was found shut up in a folding bed?

City Editor—Say that he was gathered into the fold.—*New York Sunday World.*

President Insurance Company—Want to be appointed a life insurance agent, eh? What experience have you had?

Applicant—None. I'll be frank with you, sir. I wish to marry old Moneybags' daughter, and I want to be able to say that I am in business for myself. See?

President—I see. Now I'll be frank with you. Go to old Moneybags, tell him you haven't a cent and don't expect any, yet you want to marry his daughter. Of course he'll refuse, and kick you out, but if you keep at him and stick to him until he finally consents I'll appoint you superintendent.