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GENERAL SANITATION—ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE PUBLIC
WELFARE, AND A PLEA FOR BETTER METHODS.

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(Read before the Grand Rapids Sanitary Convention, February 18).

(Continued.)

HOW DO HARMFUL FERMENTS ENTER THE BODY?

In order to be able to guard us from the communicable diseases, the health officer should know the sources of danger, and the probable ways in which different diseases enter the body. Much remains to be proved in this field of study, but concerning certain diseases there is much that seems well established.

TYPHOID FEVER.

There is good evidence that the greatest danger from typhoid fever comes from what goes into the stomach, and not from the air taken into the lungs, and that of all sources probably the most frequent is water contaminated with the discharges from persons who have had the disease, though an epidemic of about 200 cases in Germany has been traced to the eating of the meat of a calf which had probably been affected with the disease. The poison of the disease seems to be reproduced in the intestine and not usually on the outer surface of the patient. In typhoid fever, then, the health officer need not quarantine or isolate the patient, for it is not common to have the disease spread by breathing the same air in which the sick person is; but the health officer should carefully superintend some of the details in every case of typhoid fever. He should require the discharges from the bowels of the patient to be thoroughly