

they are so—but, in the meantime, why should we allow germ-bearing alimentary canals to come in and add their specific germs to this pollution; and, if a case slips through here and there, is it logical to say or do anything to still further weaken the barriers, and thus multiply the risks?

At a meeting of the Chicago Medical Society about ten days later, Mr. Hart did some very plain speaking regarding their unsatisfactory mode of keeping—or not keeping—statistics regarding their water supply. This paper confirmed me in the resolution I had already acted upon of not taking Chicago water “in its purity,” as our Hibernian patients would say, but only in the forms of soup, tea, or coffee, or otherwise boiled. One thing more it suggested to me—not to place too much confidence in the tanks at Jackson Park bearing the legend “sterilized water,” coupled with some such further remark as “This tank contains water specially prepared for drinking, and must not be wasted or used for other purposes.” Mr. Hart asserted that these inscriptions did not prevent the bacteria from varying from 500 to 2,500 per c.c.—a suspicious variation. There are two other kinds of drinks to the safety of which I may allude—the artificially aerated waters, of course, and the Waukesha spring water. This latter is said to be piped into Chicago from the abundant and magnificent supply of Waukesha. It is tapped and procured by the consumer by “dropping a penny in the slot.” I was rather puzzled, however, by reading on some of the fountains something about a flavoring of “Wild Cherry.” This may have been contained in a tank over which Waukesha water was placed after being drawn from the pipes, but I must confess that I did not properly investigate the subject, and merely wish to give my medical friends data to work from. I can assure them, however, that by adopting proper precautions well known to them they can safely visit the White City.

It is unnecessary to say that amongst these precautions I do not include the one fallacy of adding alcohol (or corrosive sublimate), “to kill the bacteria.” Those who perpetuate that jocular phrase know that the bacterium can stand these decoctions at least as well as the stomach of the biped.

Before leaving the great exhibition, I may add, for the information of those who take up their quarters in the other portion of the city, that the most comfortable and speedy way of reaching the former is by the fast trains of the Illinois Central from the foot of Van Buren street (fare, 10 cents each way; time, 15 minutes). I would also advise all who can to choose for the first visit a fine *morning*, and take one of the World's Fair steamers from foot of Van Buren street. The first impression which they will thus receive will be with the sun at their backs, lighting up gloriously the noble columns of the Peristyle and the other buildings, which are seen to the