

configuration of the soil, (2) climatic differences, (3) occupation of inhabitants, (4) mode of life and food supply, (5) depth of wells and habitual water supply? And if so what is the nature of this relationship?

As has been previously noted, the general configuration of the island is the same throughout with the exception of Mount Royal; there are no climatic differences; the inhabitants of the various parishes are engaged in the same pursuits; the mode of life is the same throughout. All are well-fed and dwell in comfortable houses, and nowhere are the people poverty stricken. Nationality is not a factor either, for although many cases occur amongst the French, the condition is proportionately common among the English, Irish, and Scotch settlers. With regard, however, to the relationship of the habitual water supply, an answer cannot be so readily given.

As you are well aware, goitre has from ancient times been considered as a water-borne disease and the prevalent opinion has also been that goitrous water was always richly impregnated with the salts of lime, magnesia, etc. Considerable evidence has accumulated in support of this view. Both men and animals suffering from goitre have been cured by removal from goitrous to non-goitrous regions, while healthy animals have been rendered goitrous by compelling them to drink water from so-called goitrous wells. Ewald<sup>4</sup> states that in Switzerland by changing the water supply of one of the villages of the Aarer, taking the water from a non-goitrous spring on the other side of the river Aar, the percentage of cases of goitre among the school children was reduced during ten years from 58 to 11 per cent. Similarly in the Island of Montreal we have observed that in the parish of Pointe-aux-Trembles the introduction of a waterworks system supplied with water from the St. Lawrence river resulted in a reduction in the cases of goitre from about 4 per cent. to about 1.5 per cent. Other interesting phenomena observed in the Island of Montreal were in connection with the depth of the wells. Where the wells are deep and the soil chiefly clay, goitre is less prevalent than where the wells are shallow and the soil more sandy. These shallow wells invariably contain surface water only, while the deeper ones, although probably containing more or less surface water, are supplied chiefly from deep water-bearing strata of sand or gravel. The water from now a few of these deeper wells is quite "soft"; some of them supply a water which is highly sulphurous, and from a few a water is obtained having strong saline properties which render it a good substitute for Vichy water. In the western portion of the island the depth of the wells does not seem to have such