and in some measure, this minimization is proportional to the thoroughness of the patrol system. It may be well at this point to call attention to the fact that the sanitary patrol organizations of most large cities having watersheds as large as that at Quebec number at least five times as many men as are engaged on this work at Quebec.

Public health officers recognize that all surface water supplies are open to danger of pollution at any time, and consequently, while looking with great favour on the practice of thorough sanitary patrol of the watersheds in the best interests of the public, also demand that such supplies be effectively purified before use. Twenty-five years ago, only 310,000 people on the North American continent were supplied with filtered water. To-day, the number has increased to over 20,000,000 people, and new filter installations are being laid down to serve not less than 1,600,000 more people each year.

EXPERIENCE ON THE TREATMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES SIMILAR TO THAT OF QUEBEC

There are dozens of water purification plants in efficient operation in Canada and in the United States, where the raw water supply is no more polluted nor objectionable to the aesthetic senses than the present supply of the City of Quebec. These purification works have been installed as sure measures of protection against disease, although it is to be admitted that in some cases, the construction of such works was delayed until a spectacular epidemic of typhoïd fever awoke the people to the realization of the ever present dangers to which they had been submitted for years.

In this enlightened era, the average progressive community, filled with civic pride, is not satisfied with a water supply which is stained, which contains mud, and which shows the presence of bacteria of sewage origin practically all of the time. The water supply of Quebec has all these defects, but at a cost of less than fifty cents per capita, annually it can be made clear, colorless, and free from disease germs at all times.