

*Reprinted from the New York Medical Journal
for June 5, 1897.*

AN EXPERIMENT WITH
THE SERUM REACTION AS A TEST FOR
TYPHOID INFECTION IN WATER, ETC.*

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To say that the injection of a suitable quantity of living or dead typhoid bacilli into a suitable animal will produce a typhoid reaction in the blood of the animal is to state a well-known fact. So far as I am aware, however, no one has attempted to utilize this as a means of demonstrating typhoid infection of drinking water, milk, etc.

Wishing to test this point practically, I introduced one cubic centimetre of a typhoid bouillon culture into a flask containing two litres of tap-water from which eleven thousand colonies to the cubic centimetre grew on gelatin at room temperature. After shaking the flask, one cubic centimetre of the water thus infected was introduced into a second flask containing two litres of the same water. From this second flask, which thus represented a dilution

* Read before the Montreal Medico-chirurgical Society, May 4 1897.