

tion in the different media. I would, however, like to draw your attention to a "Report on an endemic of typhoid fever at Springwater, New York," published this year. Springwater village is situated in a valley of the same name, two and a half miles south of Hemlock lake, a lake about six and a half miles long, from which the reservoirs supplying Rochester are fed. Springwater village is situated on the main affluence of Hemlock lake. By a calculation given in the report, it seems that under certain conditions germs might travel from Springwater to Rochester in thirty-six hours. It is this danger to their water-supply that led the authorities of Rochester to institute an investigation. The first case observed in Springwater was that of Orson Grover, a boy who was supposed to have imbibed the bacilli from a well in close proximity (30 ft.) to the privy of the village inn, and fifteen feet away from a slop drain. It is supposed that the privy had been infected by some case of ambulatory typhoid. The boy Grover was removed to his mother's house, and a second pit was thus infected, which by soakage infected the school-house well, and by similar repetitions and interchange the epidemic rapidly spread.

One question is sometimes raised: Can the germ be carried through the air by ascensional currents? I think there are few of us who have not met with cases where the circumstances have been such as to confine us for an explanation to the action of sewer gas obtaining entrance into the houses where they occurred. One of the most striking examples of this occurred to me in a family where five members were threatened with low fever. The plumbing being found fairly satisfactory, I directed an examination of the weeping drains to be made, and when one of them was opened, a strong and continuous current blew up into the cellar. The drain had forgotten to weep, and its trap had become dry and useless. Two members of the household became ill with typhoid; one of them so ill that Dr. J. H. Richardson was called in in consultation. I mention this in corroboration of the diagnosis. The condition of the weeping drain was at once rectified. The other three members escaped without a well-marked attack.

There are no authenticated instances, so far as I am aware, of infection with the disease from the ascent of typhoid germs from bodies of

still or comparatively still water in the open air, but it will readily be seen that it would be difficult to dissociate this condition from other circumstances.

With water splashed through the air in the shape of spray or foam, the case is different. This, and the fact that bacilli may be wafted in the form of dust, should be borne in mind before filling watering-carts from a filth-polluted bay! In connection with the epidemic through which we have been passing, one interesting fact has been brought to my attention by a professional friend and colleague. A slight secondary outbreak which occurred in a public institution at a time when the epidemic had pretty well subsided elsewhere, he attributes to the fact that drinking water is drawn from a cistern in the building. Some of the germs having been introduced into the tank at an earlier period, have found in the organic silt and increased temperature a suitable culture field. The danger of domestic tanks has often been pointed out, but we have not had illustrations so near home. And in this connection it would be as well to remind our fellow-citizens that many of our baths and closets are supplied from tanks, and that from the taps of the former many persons will take an occasional drink. It would therefore be well that at the present juncture *pater familias* should have his tank thoroughly cleaned out, a duty to which he should at all times attend at regular and frequent intervals.

*The general conclusions* to be derived from our experience, and strengthened by the foregoing observations, are:

That we should have no dead organic matter lying idly around as fodder for the germs of disease.

That all such matter should be destroyed or by some safe disposition returned to living organisms or to innocuous decomposition.

That we should deal actively with the very first case or cases of infectious disease, and destroy the germs; that they can be more readily dealt with by active treatment in the first case than when they have multiplied.

These abstract general principles will perhaps appear less formidable if we apply them to specific details and illustrate them by reference to specific cases. Taking them in order, let us apply the first to