

While it seems most reasonable, therefore, to admit the fact that typhoid fever may reproduce itself by the evacuations from the bowels introduced into the system through various media, it is no less certain that it may originate *de novo* from defective sewerage, decaying animal and vegetable matter, either in drinking water or in stagnant pools, and, as has recently been discovered, from milk contaminated from the same source. To attribute the production of the disease simply to a distinct typhoid poison, is to leave a large proportion of cases involved in profound mystery. To illustrate, for instance, a man living in one of our rural districts, takes typhoid fever of the most malignant form, sinks rapidly and dies. He has not been off his own farm for weeks before the commencement of his illness, and therefore, could not have contracted the disease in this way. The disease had not been previously known in the neighborhood. His mother and sister are afterwards attacked, and they also succumb to the virulence of the disease. Careful inquiry into the surroundings disclosed a neglected cistern in the back kitchen of the house, in which the water had become so putrid as to be intolerable to one coming near it; and in the bottom of this cistern there was a considerable quantity of decomposed vegetable matter that had doubtless been conveyed there by the conducting pipes. Now the disease spread in this family until this source of contamination had been removed and no longer. How can this attack be explained unless upon the possibility that the disease may be generated *de novo*?

What then is the duty of the profession as regards sanitary precautions? Is a medical man justified, in the presence of even grave doubt, in omitting to recommend the adoption of such precautionary measures against the spread of the disease as would be considered paramount in the case of diseases unequivocally due to specific influences? It seems to be only reasonable that, so long as there is any hesitation whatever as to the doctrine which is to be accepted regarding the causation of typhoid, we are incurring grave responsibilities in neglecting to advise such precautions as may be thought desirable to