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### TYPHOID FEVER IN PARIS CAUSED BY POLLUTED WATER.

Quite an outbreak of typhoid fever began in Paris about the 18th of last February. The causation of the epidemic, which naturally excited widespread interest in that city, was discussed at a meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine, on the 20th ult. M. Dujardin-Beaumetz, who introduced the question, was unable to present a complete report, but stated that the investigation had been very materially aided by the statistics compiled by the Prefecture of the Seine and the Prefecture of police. He also mentioned that the new law of compulsory notification of contagious diseases had proved very useful, as the physicians had reported all the cases occurring in their practice. He gave some valuable statistical tables showing the number of cases and the mortality rate per 1,000 inhabitants, in each ward of the city. The mortality was relatively low, fifteen per cent. Speaking of the topography of Paris considered in its relations with the distribution of spring water, he stated that Paris was supplied with spring water from three different sources—the Dhuy,

the Vanne, and the Avre. He showed that the wards of the city supplied with Dhuy water and that from the Avre were almost free from the disease, while on the contrary those supplied from the Vanne were particularly affected.

During the discussion which followed, M. Vallin stated that the Parisian military garrisons supplied with Vanne spring water were attacked, while those supplied with Dhuy water or even with river water from the Marne and Seine were exempt from typhoid fever. This, in his opinion, was a peculiar fact. Of all the city garrisons only two had escaped, one of which received spring water from the Dhuy and the other from the Avre.

From this and other observations the Parisian Board of Health is disposed to believe that the Vanne water is the cause of the trouble. Besides, at the same time that the outbreak occurred at Paris a similar one was noted at Sens, a town which is also supplied with water from the Vanne. The epidemic at Sens was severe, there being twenty-eight cases and five deaths. It was also stated by M. Bucquoy that about two months ago there had been an outbreak of typhoid at Rigny-le-Feron, which had probably caused a contamination of one of the sources of the Vanne. When all the evidence is in, it is quite likely that the etiology of the Paris epidemic will prove to be that one to which physicians in this country attach most importance, viz., the use of impure and contaminated water. We do not deny the existence, and, in certain localities, the active operation of other morbid factors in the production of typhoid fever. As Dr. de Pietra Santa holds in his recent report on typhoid fever in Paris, 1884-93. "Overcrowding, filth and uncleanness in every form, special professions, such as those of nurses and laundresses, auto-infection or the ruling medical constitution prevailing at a certain time, may