

atmosphere and conveying such disease to persons drinking of it. He did not therefore consider that ærial infection of the water in the reservoir was possible. The next section of the report deals with the question of contamination by escaped leakage and percolation. The trend of the surface and the direction of the rock-beds is shown to be entirely away from the water, and a reference to the levels proves that to reach the basin the sewage would require to run up-hill. It was, however, admitted that cracks or flaws in the rock might possibly direct fluids meeting them towards the reservoir. This was thought to be highly improbable, and a circumstance which could be guarded against.

Dr. Lachapelle thinks danger is not likely to be incurred from the drainage system, but he maintains that the microbes from cases of pneumonia, phthisis, &c., in the general wards of the hospital would pass through the windows, float over the water (more than 800 feet distant), and falling upon it, multiply therein at the rate of 300,000,000 per day—and predicts untold evils for the doomed city whose inhabitants draw upon this reservoir for their drinking water. The site is, therefore, by him unqualifiedly condemned.

We think, to convince others, Dr. Lachapelle's arguments would require to be supported by something more practical and a little less theoretical. If the wards of a general hospital are capable of contaminating the air to such a dangerous degree at a distance of over 800 feet, what shall we say of similar institutions placed in the midst of crowded localities? If there was the slightest foundation upon scientific facts for such wild statements, no hospital should be permitted to remain within a city's limits, but would have to be isolated at an enormous distance from all human dwellings and from all sources of drinking water. Fortunately, such is not the case, but, as our every day experience would suggest, and as science has established, these noxious elements cannot be propagated beyond very narrow limits through the general atmosphere, before becoming inert and free from all further capacity for harm.