and was much more virulent there than in the parts provided with good water. Prof. Breneman observes, "It shows the extent of soil saturation and indicates the condition of the ground, the emanations and exhalations from which taint the air in which the families are obliged to live, and expose them to a constant morbific agency." Just so; not only is the water injuriously affected, but the air above the saturated soil is also tainted with the vapours emitted therefrom.

Then we read of the Crown Prince of the German Empire calling Prince Bismarck's attention to this subject, with a view of appointing a Royal Commission thereon. But, to come nearer home, a couple of years ago, Dr. Ellis made known the results of the analysis of water drawn from wells in every quarter of the City of Toronto. By the figures given it was distinctly shown that the waters examined held in solution a dangerous amount of chlorides, ammonia and organic substances. If then, it is an established fact that underground sources which formerly supplied fresh, pure, health-giving water, are now strongly impregnated with unwholesome matters derived from the accumulations of organic and inorganic refuse upon the surface of the ground, is it probable that rivers and bays in the vicinity of this refuse can remain for any considerable period, entirely or moderately free from a similar contamination? Certainly not. And much less likely is it that such rivers or bays can long continue pure when multitudes of city sewers directly convey their discharge into them. One would scarcely deem it needful to have such water analysed in order to be convinced of its impurity. But should it be desired, the determination of injurious impurities in water, at all events for ordinary practical purposes, is a process so simple that the individual, if of average intelligence, with a few hours' study, may readily perform it for himself; and in this way he would avoid the necessity of being obliged to depend upon the decision of persons financially interested, or of importing outside experts to make the tests. It is freely admitted that there may be exaggeration in this as in other things. Perhaps impure water-supply is credited with more evils than rightly belong to it. Still, that foul water gives rise to many diseases, *e.g.*, typhoid fever, diphtheria, etc., both by its direct use and by inhalation of its gases, cannot be denied; and that it greatly encourages and intensifies diseases arising from other causes is equally undeniable. In dealing with this difficulty—the supply of water for cities—the civic authorities ought never to neglect the disinfection of all sewage before its discharge into a neighbouring body of water, especially if the latter be the source from which the "City water" is procured. For this purpose it may be passed into tanks and there completely disinfected before its entrance into the lake or other body of water. This is successfully practised in some parts of England (*e.g.*, Coventry), where the companies, termed Precipitation Associations, purify the sewage by means of sulphate of alumina, lime, proto-sulphate of iron, and other chemical agencies, forming precipitates to be afterwards used in fertilizing the soils.