

been to convert the Toronto bay into a cesspool. It will thus readily be seen that not only many million gallons of sewage are deposited within a short distance of the water intake, but there exists in the Toronto bay a huge septic tank containing millions of gallons of diluted septicizing sewage which is constantly overflowing through the two outlets into Lake Ontario. With this large amount of flotsam and jetsam, both macroscopic and microscopic, so near the water intake is it to be wondered at that pollution of the water supply occurs so frequently?

How could it be otherwise, for the water supply is derived from the same body of water into which the whole of the raw sewage is daily deposited.

It is not the intention in this article to do more than refer to the menace to health and life from this condition of affairs, and, consequently, the large annual financial loss occasioned thereby; not a home but at one time or another has felt the blow.

The latest reports show that the typhoid rate is rising, and unless some immediate and important action is taken it must continue to rise, for, notwithstanding the use of the much-vaunted tunnel, pollution at the intake is gradually increasing.

The conditions can be prevented, the demand for a guaranteed potable water can be satisfied, and the deposition of raw sewage can be avoided.

The first thing to be done is to provide a pure water which can be obtained by a system of slow sand filtration, the filters being constructed on the general principle as adopted in many European cities, as also at Albany, Philadelphia, and other cities of the United States, where 99 per cent. of purification has been obtained when operated by skilled superintendents.

What, then, has the filtration of water to do with the question of sewage disposal? Just this: The construction of filters is the first line of defence, and with their installation the health of the citizens is assured in so far as the danger from water-borne diseases is concerned, and the method by which the sewage will be disposed of is simplified and cost of construction and operation very materially lessened. For with the filtration of water it is possible to eliminate the filtration treatment of the sewage and yet at the same time prevent the sludging up of Toronto harbor and Ashbridge's Bay, which is desirable on both sanitary and commercial grounds.

It is not necessary to enter into any lengthy discussion of the manner in which this partial purification of the sewage can be