

“ How full are all the streets to-night
 With happy faces flushed and bright,
 The matron in her silks and furs,
 The pompous banker, fat and sleek,
 The merchant proud, the churchman meek,
 Forgetful now of hate and spite,
 For all the world is glad to-night.”

The day always brings with it an echo of the song of peace and goodwill the angels sang so long ago. And so we join in the universal gladness of the world's great holiday, and cordially greet our readers with the old but ever joyous salutation, “ A Merry Christmas and many of them.”

W. A. Y.

FILTERED WATER IN THE PREVENTION OF TYPHOID FEVER.

THE outbreak of typhoid fever at Maidstone, in England, has excited great interest among sanitarians in all countries. Some idea of its magnitude may be gathered from accounts in the *British Medical Journal*, showing that from September 11th to October 16th, 1,663 cases and 93 deaths were reported in a population of about 35,000. It was proved that the outbreak was due to contamination of the town's water supply by a camp of hop-pickers, whose fæcal dejections were washed into a stream from which part of that water supply is drawn. Another outbreak of typhoid fever, now in progress in the town of King's Lynn, Norfolk, has also been traced to a polluted water supply drawn from the Gayton River. This river—or rather brook—which issues from chalk springs, about three miles from King's Lynn, serves as a drain for the valley through which it runs. The land in the valley is agricultural. About one and a half miles to the east of Lynn is the village of Gayton, of about 1,000 inhabitants. In this village there are few sewers, but in many of the houses the sanitary arrangements consist of privy pits, and there is no system of scavenging. The pits are emptied periodically, and the contents either buried or spread on the ground as manure. This ground slopes towards the Gayton River.

Thus we have the Gayton River fed from (1) chalk springs, (2) field-surface drainage, (3) surface drainage from Gayton village, which must consist largely of fæcal matter. The town water