

falling into the streams in well-peopled districts; but these processes cannot be depended upon to remove the typhoid infection. This infection passes from the patient to our surface-waters directly by the sewers, or it drains through the soil with the subsoil water, and reaches the surface on some lower level. Of course in either case it may be lost in the mass of water in which it is diffused, but it was not so lost at Plymouth nor at Lauzen. To protect the citizen and stamp out this fever, it should be made the duty of every medical man who attends a case of fever to see that the excreta are disinfected before being consigned to the sink, cesspool or sewers, and the utmost care in this regard should be taken in cases occurring on a water-shed which is utilized for a public supply. So far as our knowledge goes, sewage would be deprived of that which under ordinary conditions, constitutes its only dangerous element, were this system of bedroom disinfection efficiently practised.

Local authorities such as water companies and boards, citizens' committees, health boards and commissioners, should exercise a jealous guard over the water-supply, but in many instances these would be powerless without the intervention and co-operation of the authorities of the State. Massachusetts, Illinois, and Minnesota have already taken steps in this direction. In the first-mentioned State the Board of Health is invested with the general supervision of the water-supplies. No sewage, drainage, excrement, or other refuse or polluting matter of such kind or amount as—either by itself or in connection with other matter—will corrupt or impair the purity of a water used for domestic purposes, is permitted to be delivered into a water-course or any of its feeders within twenty miles above the point where a water-supply is taken. Upon the application of a city or town to the Supreme Court, alleging the pollution of its water-supply in violation of law, an injunction may be issued, or the polluting substances required to be so cleaned or purified that they shall be no longer deleterious. The limit of twenty miles in this law is a defect, but sanitary legislation is a thing of slow progress, and our friends in

Massachusetts undoubtedly secured as much as was possible for them to obtain at the time.

The board is required to examine the waters from time to time, for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are adapted for use as domestic water supplies, or are likely to impair the interests or imperil the health of the public. It is required to conduct experiments to determine the best practicable methods of purification, of drainage, and of the disposal of refuse, and to recommend measures for the preservation of the purity of the waters. Moreover, it is the legally constituted adviser of cities, towns, corporations, firms, or individuals, in matters pertaining to the introduction of water supplies or sewerage systems, making use of its knowledge and facilities on their behalf in regard to source and quality of water and methods of sewage disposal, having regard to the present and prospective needs and interests of other communities or individuals that might be affected thereby. The approval of the board is a legal requirement to the consideration by the Legislature of any application for authority to introduce any system of water supply or sewerage.

The board is also empowered to consult with and advise those engaged, or intending to engage, in any manufacturing or other business as to the best practicable method of intercepting, purifying, or disposing of any drainage or refuse that might result from the business to the detriment of the waters of the State. It is required to bring to the notice of the attorney-general all instances which may come to its knowledge of omission to comply with existing laws respecting the pollution of water supplies and inland waters, and to report to the Legislature any specific cases not covered by the provisions of existing laws which, in its opinion, call for further legislation. Finally, and very materially, the board is provided with funds to sustain the corps of engineers, chemists, and inspectors, whose labors are needful to the proper performance of its duties.

The report of the board's proceedings under these heads, submitted to the Legislature in January of this year, shows the excellent work that may be accomplished