

should be given to matters of health and hygiene. As time went on there would be a diffusion of knowledge that would do good, and will repay the trouble and expense.

The results of public school inspection by qualified medical men has revealed a state of affairs that is quite alarming. The percentage of children who are attending the schools of every county and are laboring under some serious disease is quite large. The inspection of the schools and the discovery of these cases will not be of much value unless steps are taken to follow them up by proper treatment. This latter is the natural sequel to inspection.

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### WATER POLLUTION.

As scientific knowledge advances it becomes more and more apparent how difficult the task is of maintaining purity in large bodies of water and public streams. It has been observed that typhoid fever infection has been borne by a stream as far as forty miles from the point where the contamination occurred.

Large cities have a very hard problem before them in their efforts to procure pure water for the people. Large communities produce immense quantities of sewage. This must be disposed of in some way. The ordinary ways that present themselves are to bury it, burn it, or pour it into the lake or river, which may be hard by the city.

The first two methods are well nigh impossible when the city is large. The ready plan of emptying the sewage into the lake or river presents itself as the easiest. It is, therefore, adopted. But water flows down stream, and is surged hither and thither in the lakes. General contamination results. It is then a necessity for all large cities to treat both the sewage and the water. The sewage must be rendered as nearly sterile as possible before the liquid is permitted to flow into the lake or river.

But there will still be the utmost risk of some contamination. The water must consequently be filtered. Toronto is installing a splendid filtration plant. So far so good; but it is not enough. There must be a system for the treatment of the sewage. This the city has also undertaken. The final stage is reached when the liquid from the sewage is thoroughly chlorinated or otherwise treated before it enters the lake.

What is done in Toronto is just what must be done in other large cities. Shakespeare said that "all the waters in the wide rough sea could not wash the balm from an annointed King," so all the waters in the wide rough lake cannot wash the infection from sewage. We must do, as the witches said in Macbeth, kill, slay, burn.