

Pure Water and the Pollution of Waterways.

In a discussion of the subjects of pure water supplies, the pollution of waterways and the disposal of sewage, it is found as difficult to consider them separately as it is to expect to find pure water when man wantonly pollutes it with his own excreta and will neither provide the means for removing that pollution by some adequate method of filtration or sterilization, nor minimize it by adopting any method of sewage treatment. He transgresses all the laws of Nature and hopes the God of Nature will help him out in some miraculous manner and furnish him with pure water. These subjects will therefore be dealt with in a general or collective manner, domestic water supplies and public water supplies from subterranean sources being eliminated.

The inhabitants of a village or small town depend primarily upon wells as their sources of domestic water supply, but with the growth of these municipalities, the population becomes gradually more dense and pollution of the wells results. Fire insurance companies also demand better fire protection service, and so a time is reached when a public water supply must be installed; and this latter development is in many instances the important and deciding factor. It is then the authorities get busy; it is then that old time ideas and prejudices have to be broken down and overcome, for many householders will cling tenaciously to the "old oaken bucket"