

a communication in the *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*, from Dr. E. D. Worthington, of Lennoxville, and is instructive.

"For many years" he says, "that school has had a most unenviable, as well as a most painful reputation, as the centre of a panic, in some form or other. It is the only school in Canada, that I know of, that has struggled through such a wretched experience. There must have been some counterbalancing good in it to have enabled it to retain its vitality. It is unquestionably a magnificent school, both for the development of mind and muscle; but it is a reproach to those in charge of it, that an implacable enemy, living on its grounds, or within its walls or wells, should not have been wiped out of existence years ago. I mean that "*contagium vivum*," that much abused, and now much talked of typhoid fever germ.

Last summer, just before the outbreak of fever, when the accumulated filth of a drain, that was not a drain, and extended only a short distance beyond the foundations of the school, rendered the air offensive, by backing up its horrid stench into the building, and it became necessary to do *something*, what was done? The most dangerous thing that could have been done! An enemy that had been a source of dread for years! Incredible as it may seem, this *horrid thing* was actually opened *in term*, in the heat of the summer, under the windows of school and college, and close to the public highway, *just before the close of the term*.

When the hotbed of disease was opened, it was found for the first time, that this particular drain had no outlet, and that it terminated

almost under the dining-room, used in common by both grammar school and college. We all know what followed. Whether what followed was the result of the opening of that drain, at that time, God knows. But it was an indiscreet act, one involving an utter disregard of the first principles of public health, and common decency, on the part of men in charge of a large public school. Either that drain should have remained untouched for another week, *or*, the boys should have been sent home.

Some seven or eight years ago, from causes similar to those at present existing, Drs. Robertson, Johnstone, and myself were requested to examine and report upon the then state of things. After going over the college and school buildings, we found everything in the most admirable order. Going over the grounds, however, we found a huge privy, used in common; and I have, no hesitation in stating that that, privy was the filthiest thing I ever saw, utterly disgraceful. So sickening was it, that one of the medical commission retired in haste, with a result that may be guessed at.

That privy was unanimously condemned, and it was suggested that as the water supply was obtained from a well within a suspicious distance from the privy, the water should be sought for from some other source, and that the water of that well should not be used under any circumstances for cooking or drinking. The privy was immediately closed. The well has continued to be used *hinc illa lachrymæ*! How this privy was closed up—whether the latrine was first emptied and the hole filled