

from a few inches to several feet, but nowhere is it of every great depth. The rocks underlying the soil are chiefly Silurian Limestone, with here and there an outcrop of Lower Laurentian, the strata of both formations being much distorted and intermingled by volcanic action. There are but few natural springs in the island and consequently there are few marshes though here and there, owing to the shallowness of the soil, the surface water remains for a long time during the early spring or after heavy rains.

Regarding the water supply of the inhabitants, the citizens of the city of Montreal and those people living near the shore use river water, chiefly Ottawa river water, which is "soft" and contains a low percentage of salts of lime. Those people living inland depend upon wells for their water supply. These are more or less shallow and invariably contain surface water in varying degrees. For the most part they are fairly good potable waters. Unfortunately a complete and careful analysis of the inorganic constituents of these waters has so far not been published; neither has a bacteriological analysis of these same waters been undertaken. Our knowledge therefore on these important points is very meagre, and not until it is complete will it be possible to state what, if any, are the constituents by reason of which the water supply exerts the influence which it appears to have upon the frequency of goitre in a given locality.

In the city of Montreal it is singularly rare that a person born and brought up there is afflicted with goitre, while it is quite common in the rural parishes round about. Believing that more definite information might be had on the frequency of goitre among the rural inhabitants, a careful survey has been made of the entire island. This was accomplished by personally interviewing the several physicians who are practicing in the villages and country beyond the limits of the city of Montreal. These interviews brought to light some very interesting facts. It was ascertained that goitre is more or less common throughout the island, being most frequent in females, especially young girls at the age of puberty. It is, however, not uncommon in males. The condition also varies in severity from a simple enlargement of a portion of the thyroid gland to the extreme forms of goitre. These latter cases are far from common. Moreover, it was discovered that there was a variation in the relative frequency of the condition in the several parishes into which the island is divided. This variation in distribution will be better understood after referring to the accompanying map.

It will be observed that the disease is less frequent in the eastern