

It is well known that typhoid fever is prevalent in country districts. This is largely caused by the water from *shallow wells*. A farmer builds a house, digs a well twenty feet or less deep, regardless of its proximity to barn-yard or privy, and possibly on lower ground than either. He accepts the water because it is bright, clear, and good in taste—a fallacious test—because the water may nevertheless contain germs. He should be taught that the location of the well is of the first consideration: it should be placed on elevated ground, so as to prevent the possibility of leakage from barn-yard or privy into it. As I have already said, typhoid germs have been conveyed under ground into wells, so polluting the water as to cause disease. And the well of every vendor of milk should be inspected before he obtains his license to sell, as the water with which he washes his milk-pails, or that which he may add to the milk, may, without his knowledge, be so polluted as to cause typhoid fever, or tuberculosis.

As I have already explained, the common house fly, having visited latrines containing the excretions from a case of the disease, may carry the germs on their feet. Hence, when the disease is in a house, they should be excluded from all kinds of food. The neglect of this precaution probably accounts for the spread of the disease in filthy districts. Attendants upon the sick can not be too careful in observing the strictest cleanliness. Soiled clothes should be boiled; and all water used for drinking should be boiled, placed in sterilized bottles, corked with cotton-wool, and kept in a cool place.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, let me say to you, that in bringing this subject to your notice, I have no wish or intention to cast any reflection upon those who are responsible for the character of the water distributed to the people in this city; doubtless, they accepted their charge as they found it. I do so as a duty pertaining to my position as a member of the Provincial Board of Health.