

	OXYGEN CONSUMED PER 1,000,000 PARTS WATER.	
	15 Minutes.	4 Hours.
Lake Ontario, at Hamilton.....	0.120	0.440
River St. Lawrence, at Brockville.....	0.276	0.612
River Richelieu, at St. John's, Que.	0.740	1.668
Bay of Quinte, at Belleville.....	1.420	3.040
River St. Maurice, at Three Rivers, Que.	2.612	4.456
Ottawa River, February, 1888	2.868	5.760
Moncton Supply, New Brunswick	5.436	10.444

The place occupied by Ottawa river water in this list is certainly one of *bad eminence*. As this water has been examined at irregular intervals since 1888, I may add the following results :—

Ottawa River, April, 1890.....	3.060	4.886
“ “ August, 1890.....	3.747	6.387

It will be seen from these numbers that while the amount of oxidizable organic matter in the river varies from month to month as might be expected, and according to a law which we have not the necessary data to discover, the amount is at all times very large, and it behoves us to examine the conditions under which a water containing so large a quantity of dissolved organic matter is safe as an article of food. That the organic matter is not *per se* of an injurious nature is sufficiently evident from the fact that we and our fathers do use it and have used it with impunity. Let me ask your attention for a few moments to another matter. There is a large class of diseases generally spoken of as *zymotic* which have this property in common. Whenever a single case of such a disease occurs in a locality we may be pretty sure that immediately in its vicinity, and gradually further and further from that point as a centre, we shall find the disease spreading until it