

is the price of safety. The sanitary inspector should be ever on guard and familiar with every square yard of the surface, and the health authorities should be empowered to protect the many against the carelessness or wanton encroachments of the few. The question of water-supply is here reduced to its simplest terms: the raising of sufficient money to bring in the wholesome water, and the investment of the health officer with power to preserve the wholesome quality of the public supply and to prevent the use of water from sources which are known to be unwholesome.

In other instances, it is difficult to obtain a suitable water-supply. The whole face of the country has been more or less settled, and the natural drainage of every valley brings sewage and manufacturing waste into its outflowing stream. Nevertheless, now is the time to act, for these unfavorable conditions will increase and multiply in the future, so that what may be done now cannot be done then without a tenfold expenditure of time and money. Fortunately, when difficulties occur from the density of the settlement, there is also more wealth to meet the increased expenditure, but it is beyond the power of that wealth to give life to those who have in the mean time fallen victims, or consolation to the hearts that are in mourning. What is to be done should in all cases be done at once. It is *we* who are interested in this matter—now, in our own time and generation; for what does it avail us that the city is supplied with pure water ten years hence, if at that time it be remarked of us, Oh, yes, I remember him well; he died of typhoid-fever eight or nine years ago. And it is an easy matter to so arrange the financial burden that part of it shall fall on those who will hereafter participate in the benefits.

In well-settled sections of the country it may be impossible for the towns and villages to obtain a water free from sewage in their main streams or their neighboring tributaries, and equally impossible for any one of them to go to the nearest sources of pure water for a supply, but those favorably situated for combined action may easily perfect their arrangements for bring-

ing in the water from long distances. Nor should it be forgotten that if water free from sewage is not to be obtained on the neighboring surface, it may sometimes be found beneath the surface, as at Brooklyn, L. I. or, more notably, at Memphis, Tenn., where, after a thorough investigation of the developed that they had a source of the purest water within a hundred yards of their domestic hearths.

Many communities have a water-supply which was pure enough when originally introduced, but which has become dangerous by the subsequent growth and development of which it formed the nucleus. A water-bed or basin cannot be used for concurrent purposes of water-supply and sewage discharge. If the drainage area be given up to settlement and commercial enterprise, with their consequent sewage and manufacturing waste, the city must be prepared to find another source of supply for its daily wants, or pay the penalty of an increased death-rate from preventable disease. In the race for material prosperity this penalty is too often forgotten, and the endemic fever is regarded as one of those visitations of Providence that are inevitably consequent upon conditions of aggregation. Yet every intelligent medical man knows the fallacy of this reasoning, and that the progress of malady can be checked by suitable measures as surely as exotic disease can be kept out of the country by properly enforced restrictions on commerce. To permit the citizen to enjoy life which according to the Constitution of the United States, is his right, the most stringent laws should be enforced to preserve the purity of the drinking-water, or, if the settlements on the area are too valuable to be destroyed, a new source of supply should be obtained and guarded.

The protection of the citizen requires that every advantage be taken of our knowledge of the natural history of the typhoid infection, that it may be destroyed before reaching any of our water-courses. It is well to insist upon the purification of sewage by processes of precipitation, filtration, or irrigation before its water is delivered into the natural courses, for thereby the latter will be prevented from