

Subterranean currents of water obey the same laws with reference to their flow as streams which move on the earth's surface; and artificial works may interfere with, alter or reverse their flow. In classic times the movement of water beneath the surface of the earth appears to have been known. We are told that Pompey suffered very much, and his army of course, at Petra, in the war between he and Cæsar, as 'they could get no water on the rock, and when he attempted to sink wells, Cæsar so perverted the water-courses that the wells gave no water. Cæsar tells us that he dammed up the streams, making little lakes to hold it, so that it should not trickle down in its underground courses to the comfort of his enemies.'

Mr. Baldwin Latham records that in the year 1870 he was called upon by the Croydon Local Board, to inquire into the state of health of the inhabitants of a cluster of 69 houses situated in the hamlet of Wallington, near to the sewage irrigation works of the Croydon Local Board. He then reported, that in all the houses in which the cesspools were placed on the north of the habitation, they had been, so far as was known to the present inhabitants, entirely free from any zymotic disease, whilst in those with cesspools located in other aspects, the tenants had suffered at different times from various kinds of zymotic disease. At that time he attributed it to the effect of the prevailing winds wafting any miasms in the direction of these houses, but more careful investigation showed with respect to these houses, that the current of under-ground water was from south-east to north-west, and that the well and the cesspool were invariably on opposite sides of the house. In all cases in which the well was located, as respects the fall of the subterranean water, above the cesspool, the house had been invariably healthy, and in every case in which the cesspool was located above the water-supply, that house had so long as the water from the well was in use, never been long free from enteric fever; in fact the use of water from most of the wells so located had been prohibited by the medical gentlemen in attendance on the occupants of these houses.

He also refers to an outbreak of enteric fever which occurred in the parish of Coulsden. The inhabitants had previously suffered from outbreaks of this fever, and he found that in the case of all the occupants of all the houses affected with the disease, the cesspools were situated on the subterranean current above the well, so that polluting matter was naturally carried by the movement of the water into the well.

He says numerous other cases in different parts of the country have also been brought to his attention, which clearly show that, in many instances, if attention had been paid to the subterranean movement of the water, and the sites of the wells and cesspools exchanged, much disease and death would, in all probability, have been prevented. It is mentioned, that the plague at Constantinople particularly affected districts in which the burial-grounds stood above the places afflicted. In the seventh report of the State Board