

we think that to arrive at anything like definite results as to what is best to be done, a scientific commission should be appointed, and suggestions received and acted upon.

The water supply of Montreal is drawn chiefly from the Ottawa river. This river with its numerous tributary streams is teeming with fish and their parasites; some of the streams which empty into the Ottawa are alive with small hair worms, one of the family of the Filaria. Several of these we have captured and they have for some time past formed the subject of our almost daily observation; now and then a veritable Filaris will be passed through our water taps. The worm is supposed to live on the water beetle, which is likewise abundant in these streams. Besides this we have captured on more than one occasion minute crustaceans, which are microscopic objects, and other forms of animal parasite; we have found on several occasions the young of the Filaria in active motion and which, from its size and appearance, is not to be distinguished from the young of the guinea worm, which belongs to the same family. We have heard that the reservoir is full of fish, this is a matter of some moment, as if so it is another reason for seeking to improve its condition. We have no doubt that the rocky sides of the reservoir are covered with algæ, especially those which abound in stagnant water where there is a rocky bed. We would again urge on our Corporation to see to the condition of our water supply as there can be no doubt of the fact that in its present state it is unwholesome, and we believe is a fruitful source of bowel derangements, which are well known to be common in our city. To our citizens, those who can afford it, we would advise the purchase of a filter, or to extemporise one, with charcoal and sand which are always to be had, or, if it is preferred boil the water by which means we cook the impurities and render them less nocuous; but the proper thing to do is for our city to institute on a large scale filtering beds to pass the water through, prior to admitting it into the reservoir.

We trust that if the corporation of our city adopt the above suggestion and seek for advice from scientific men, that no personal or other considerations will induce them to appoint any, but persons whose opinions will carry weight with the community. If anything is to be done it should be attended to without delay before the cold of winter has set in, as it is in every way desirable that the citizens of Montreal should be supplied, especially during the prevalence of the heat of summer, with drinkable water. We may state that it is not at all unlikely that that direful scourge, cholera, may again visit our country during the next year, and we should fortify ourselves against the enemy by every conceivable sanitary precaution.