

fever is propagated by an infected sewage in a well-water which has undergone a more efficient filtration through the soil than that to which the sewage is subjected in the irrigating fields, or when we remember that the spring-waters which occasioned the epidemic at Lauzen were derived from a sewage-polluted stream spread over the fields of an adjoining valley for purposes of irrigation?

In view of the considerations which we have thus briefly reviewed, we cite the opinion of the English commissioners, to give it greater emphasis as re-affirmed after the passage of years which have added much to our knowledge of the propagation of infectious diseases by means of the water-supply: "Of all the processes which have been proposed for the purification of water or of water polluted by excrementitious matters, there is not one which is sufficiently effective to warrant the use, for dietetic purposes, of water which has been so contaminated. In our own opinion, therefore, rivers which have received sewage, even if that sewage has been purified before its discharge, are not safe sources of potable water." A water to which sewage has access should from that fact alone be excluded from all further consideration at a possible water-supply for drinking purposes.

The introduction of a water-supply into a growing city is ordinarily only a question of money. Engineering difficulties fade into insignificance when surveyed from a satisfactory financial standpoint. It is often said to be beyond the power of money to purchase health, but the sanitary student can readily demonstrate that in many cases this is not so. Money expended in the distribution of a wholesome water-supply will purchase health for the thousands who otherwise fall victims to the fever which is endemic in our cities and towns. Typhoid-fever is a disease to which every one is exposed. The susceptibility to it is inherent in our constitutions, and, so far as we know, immunity can be purchased only by submitting to attack. Ordinarily the human constitution succumbs to its influence before maturity is reached, but if up to that period we fortunately escape, we have no assurance of future

immunity. Uncertainty overhangs us like a cloud. Danger is at present with us in the daily routine of our peaceful lives as on the battle-field, only that the embodiment of evil is an invisible and intangible germ instead of a fast-flying bullet. Danger flows beside us in our streams, in our mains, from the taps in our houses. The germ of the disease may not be in this pitcherful or in that, in this tumblerful or that, but it will find us some day if we continue to use the water which contains it. In a town of 50,000 inhabitants one victim is taken daily, and as the average duration of this disease is about a month, there are always in that city thirty persons whose lives are unnecessarily trembling in the balance.

What is the local suffering from yellow-fever in Jacksonville, Pensacola, or New Orleans, once in so many years, compared with the totality of the destruction caused by the steady progress of this general and ever-present scourge? Thirty thousand people die of typhoid-fever annually in the United States of America, and Vienna lowered her losses by this fever from 340 to 11 annually in every 100,000 of her population by introducing a spring-water supply instead of the sewage-tainted waters of the Danube. Calculate the loss by sickness associated with these 30,000 deaths—the loss of work, the unprofitable work of nursing, and the actual outlay necessitated by each visitation of the disease—and you will find that saving money by drinking sewage in the water-supply is a penny-wise policy that in the long run will fail to pay even for the funerals and the mourning goods.

In many instances it is, on this continent, an easy matter to obtain a suitable supply for a community. Some neighboring lake offers itself as a natural reservoir, requiring only the construction of conduits for the transmission of its waters: or an artificial reservoir may be formed by damming certain of the radicles of a neighboring stream. The drainage area of this supply must be kept under the closest supervision by the sanitary authorities of the community, for it is not enough to obtain a supply which is free from sewage; it must be kept so. Constant vigilance