

man by water as well as by air; while it has been noticed that the water after standing for a time has been as offensive to the sense of smell as water from an old or unclean cistern. As evidence of the water origin of the fever, the disease has manifested itself far from any collections of filth, in the most healthy parts of the city, unconnected with the sewers, but where the water was freely consumed direct from the taps. Although the imperfect sewerage of the city has probably caused an increase, likely enough a large increase, in the number of typhoid fever cases, the present epidemic is so general and was so sudden in its outbreak—so like an explosion—as to preclude the probability of being wholly of sewage origin. It has been too wide-spread to have been caused by contaminated milk from any one dairy, we should judge, and is certainly more like outbreaks which have occurred in other places and which afterwards were found to have been caused by some sudden and special contamination of the water supply.

THE OTTAWA WATER.—Samples of the Ottawa water supply have been, it is said, submitted to the chief Dominion analyst for examination. Chemical analysis alone will not by any means afford satisfactory evidence of the purity or impurity of the water. Such evidence can be furnished only by a most careful biological examination. We doubt if there is in Canada suitable apparatus reliable for this purpose. A Central Board of Health with a Hygienic Laboratory is yet a want in the Dominion. Chemical examination may show the water to be tolerably pure, or perhaps containing some excess of vegetable impurity, and yet it may contain also the germs of "malarial" fever—the bacillus malarie (a vegetable organism)—manifested only by the microscope with the most careful scientific investigation. It is on account of the development and spread of similar specific germs of disease that the waters of rivers are becoming dangerous; as pointed out in a paper we read at the meeting last year in Toronto of the American Health Association, touching experiments of Frankland, Meade Bolton, Wolfshugel and other biological investigators, and which resulted in a special committee, on "Pollution of Water Supply," being ap-

pointed at the meeting, brief extracts from a preliminary report of which committee, recently presented at the Memphis Meeting of the Association, may be seen on another page of this number. The disinfected secretions of a case of typhoid fever, trickling with a little stream into the river above the water supply, might, it appears possible, perhaps in a low strata of water, be conveyed to the intake of the supply, and, multiplying in the wonderful manner that organisms like the germs of disease are known to multiply, even in potable water, communicate the disease to hundreds in the city.

IMPURE CREAM OF TARTAR is a substance commonly sold in Canada. Out of about 35 samples recently examined by the public analysts, we understand, some 22 only were genuine; the others were adulterated with gypsum, alum, acid phosphates and starch to the extent of from 15 to 80 per cent. Cream of tartar is a substance in very common domestic use, and two at least of the adulterants found would be decidedly injurious if taken into the human stomach, and whoever would so add such ingredients would poison a fellow creature at any time for a small "consideration" if it could be "safely" done, or legal proceedings evaded.

UNYIELDING DRESS about the chest and its physiological effects and evil consequence wepe dwelt upon by Dr. Jessop at the last meeting of the British Medical Association, as referred to in an article on dress elsewhere (page 274). As we have before stated Balls Health Corsets manufactured by Messrs. Brush Bro. of Toronto, and sold by most dealers, are not unyielding, but yielding, by means of side coil springs, and are the least objectionable corsets we know of.

COMPARATIVE CITY MORTALITY.—Dr. Bertillon, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Paris, has collected some important facts relative to the mortality from certain diseases in European Cities. In Paris, in 1886, the mortality from typhoid fever was 45 in every 100,000 inhabitants; in London the mortality in the same number of inhabitants was 17; in Berlin, 16; in Vienna, 11; in St. Petersburg, 118; in Milan, 71; in Marseilles, 108; in Lyons, 40; in Edinburgh, 15; in Liverpool, 34; and