

I have lingered on this part of the subject in order to emphasize the fact that it would be a very easy thing to do a vast injury by diverting the sewage outfall to another locality, not land-locked, but subject to storm and current, which would not only destroy the conditions necessary to anaerobic change, but would be liable to carry unmodified sewage, with its peculiar germs, to the water intake.

The selection of a location for a septic system is largely influenced by engineering considerations and cost. A large area would be required, and, if above the general level of the city, heavy pumping charges would be incurred, and provision for the disposal of the purified effluent would have to be made. A low level, where the sewage, or most of it, could be carried by gravitation would be much preferable, and it may be that the eastern part of the shore of Ashbridge's Bay would be suitable for the construction of septic tanks, while the filling in of the bay would afford adequate room for the necessary beds. The word "necessary" is used advisedly, for I fear that the discharge of the septic tank effluent, without thorough subsequent treatment by repeated contact beds, would be attended with risk to the water supply. The whole question of locality demands further investigation, but the above, which is based on plan No. 3 of the engineer's report for 1901, seems to give the greatest promise.

Whether the sewage is to be carried by an intercepting sewer along the city front, thus involving pumping to the proper level; or whether, in addition to this, there be an intercepting sewer to carry off, by simple gravitation, the sewage from levels above, say, Wilton Avenue, is purely a matter for the engineer, and has already been treated with thoroughness in the plans of Hering and Gray and those submitted by the City Engineer. As soon as the point of treatment is selected the sewer should be at once commenced, for it will be a work of years, and procrastination will only defer the inevitable.

#### DR. JOHN A. AMYOT.

The death rate in Toronto for the last five years from typhoid fever was 22 per 100,000 of the population. This is not excessive, but more than twice as high as that of any city having an unquestioned water supply. The unavoidable, or rather that due to our neighbors, is 8 per 100,000 in general.

During the last four years 16.8 per cent. of the daily samples examined in this laboratory of Toronto water showed the