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EXAMINATION OF WATER, CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL.*

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The fact that water is one of the necessities of life would almost lead one to the conclusion that every one would be interested in securing a proper and adequate supply of it.

And yet strange enough this is not the case and it is difficult to say what to attribute this to. It may be that it is due to ignorance as to what constitutes "pure water," partly to carelessness and partly to false ideas of economy or all of these combined.

Certain it is that legislation even is required to ensure such a supply, for in the Public Health Acts of Great Britain we find the following:—"It shall not be lawful in any rural district for the owner of any dwelling house which may be erected * * * to occupy the same or cause or permit the same to be occupied unless and until he has obtained from the sanitary authority of the district a certificate that there is provided, within a reasonable distance of the house, such an available supply of wholesome water as may appear to such authority, on the report of their inspector or of their medical officer of health, to be sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the houses."

* Read before meeting Medical Society of Nova Scotia, New Glasgow, July, 1902.