

national enemy like typhoid fever. At present, in Canada and the United States, it is not possible for an expert with the authority of the Federal Government to compel a small city whose water and drainage system may be a source of national danger, to correct this condition. That the Ottawa authorities did not realize the far-reaching power of their epidemics, is shown by the fact that they permitted their plan for the annual exhibition, held at Ottawa, to be carried out, drawing thousands to that city, *at a time when new cases of typhoid were still being reported.*

I am told that the experience through which Ottawa has just passed could be repeated at Montreal; that the relation of water supply to sewage is such that a contamination as it occurred at Ottawa might take place at any time at Montreal. If the National Government were responsible for the water supply and sewage, as it is for quarantine stations, coast defences, light houses and harbours, it would be possible to institute uniform measures approved by the highest authorities. Until some such plan is adopted, this question of vital importance will be at the mercy of political manipulation and the ignorance of half-trained officials.

As stated at the beginning of this article, these opinions are expressed with regard to typhoid fever in general. I do not wish to convey the impression, that what has been witnessed in the state of affairs prevalent at Ottawa is peculiar to that city; the menace lurks, under our present health regulations, in many large towns throughout the continent. The grave-yards of Philadelphia and Baltimore are filled with the silent victims of municipal ignorance or political corruption. What, I trust, has been shown is that a typhoid fever outbreak of the proportion of that in Ottawa is a subject for widespread concern. It calls for the most serious consideration of the present health regulations, which make possible so appalling a destruction of life and health in an otherwise fair city.

Is it possible to allow longer so subtle and hideous a national enemy to be met only by local health officers whose training