

of typhoid fever obtains access to the human body by water, in a very large majority of instances. Professor Victor C. Vaughan was sent last year by the United States Government to investigate the cause of this disease among 30,000 troops stationed at Jacksonville, Fla. He found that the inhabitants and the soldiers drank from the same artesian well. In the city there were very few cases, but each regiment had from 300 to 400. The soldiers lived in tents not far from the latrines; their food was on tables exposed to the common house fly. Lime was spread on the contents of the latrines, and the flies were traced to the food by the lime on their feet. The troops were sent to different stations without favourable result, when the clothes, blankets and tents were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. After that was done, and two weeks had elapsed, not a case of fever appeared among the soldiers. With such evidence before us it is but reasonable to conclude that the fly is a factor in the spread of the disease. Another cause of the spread may be found in the soiled hands of the mother or the nurse.

We have no means of knowing the general death rate in this province. But when we compare the typhoid death rate of St. John with those of similar climates having good water, we find, as I have already stated, that the death rate ranges from three to eight per 100,000 living. While, within the last eleven months, we have had in St. John, with its 40,000 inhabitants, seventy-four cases, with ten deaths, and the cases have progressively increased from seventeen in 1893 to seventy-nine in the present year, except in 1898, when they fell from fifty-four to ten. It may be presumed in consequence of the partial cleaning of the pond the year before, and the removal of the "compost heap" from its bank. Do not such facts strongly point to the water as the cause? The proportion of deaths is large for the number of cases, but this may be accounted for by all the cases not having been reported. One case occurred in January, one in May, five in August, sixteen in September,