

make this color very decided. We find it so in the spring nearly always. Now, if there is any drink which a human being craves it is water, and he desires it clear and limpid. It is only such water that he relishes. Let us give an example. Pour water into a glass which has contained milk, and at once it becomes whitish blue. That water can never be drank with the same relish as if it had been placed in a clean glass. So often then is our Montreal water discoloured that we, with many others, have not drank a drop of it for a long time. Hundreds have given up its use as an unadulterated beverage, and have supplied themselves with Laurentian water from the Laurentian Springs which is beautifully clear and absolutely free, we believe, from organic matter. While the report of our Montreal water supply is satisfactory, save in the part we have noted, we find that the bacteriologist of the Buffalo Health Department has thrown the citizens of that place, especially those who use filters, into a somewhat excited state. He reports that in water taken from the ordinary tap he found from 160 to 560 bacteria per cubic centimeter, while in the water from a mechanical filter he found from 1,180 to 3,800 per cubic centimeter. The *Philadelphia Medical Journal* commenting on this statement says :

“‘This is not surprising ; it is astounding ! The tests clearly show that in many instances filters will clarify the water very nicely, also add tremendously to its bacterial contents. This they do by reason of the filtering material becoming a culture-medium for bacteria, after it has become a little dirty. This is a very serious matter, as it shows that people who trust a mechanical filter to purify their drinking-water are the victims of misplaced confidence. A filter that is not frequently and thoroughly cleansed may become a vastly more dangerous source of infection than the water that it is supposed to purify.’”

Really one is almost compelled to exclaim : “How in the world do we exist with so many bacteria in our food and drink.” It is indeed wonderful.