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which have been stored. Such foods may be and frequently are consumed with fatal results. There is every reason to believe that certain waters and more particularly stagnant waters in which there is decaying vegetable and animal matter, possess this poisonous property. Some of us may have experienced the nauseating effects of water from a pond or lake containing the products of decaying algae It is scarcely necessary to add that such water is unfit for consumption. Moving water is, as a rule, free from this class of impurity. This is a phase of the water question that has not received from sanitarians the attention it deserves, but I am convinced of its importance in judging of the merits of a water for a city or house supply.

So far we have learnt that what we have to fear in our water supplies, is, first, the presence of disease germs, due to contamination with sewage, and secondly, those products of the decay of organic bodies from certain classes of matter, excretal or vegetable and which exert a toxic action on the system. A third form of pollution met with is the waste waters of manufactories which are run into the water course without proper purification. These refuse waters may contain organic or inorganic substances detrimental to health. Fortunately in Canada this kind of pollution is not often found, but in the protection of our lakes and rivers legislation must take cognizance of it and the laws preventing the discharge of such waste into possible sources of water supplies rigidly enforced.

In considering the role of rain and snow in Nature some two years ago, we learnt two facts of a fundamental character. The first was that the earth's moisture was in continual circulation. The ascension of water in the form of vapour, due to the heat of the sun, went on constantly, day and night, winter and summer, from earth and water surface alike. Ice and snow, as we saw, could be converted into vapour without visually passing through the liquid state. This vapour of water ascends until it reaches the higher and colder strata of the atmosphere where it is condensed to fall as rain, hail or snow, according to the atmospheric conditions prevailing at the time of the precipitation. This process of evaporation and condensationdistillation, in fact-is from the point of view we are considering to-night one of the greatest importance, for it is primarily one of purification. The sun, then, is the agent above all others that renders it possible to obtain a wholesome supply of drinking water, for the water in being converted into vapour leaves behind all those substances-mineral and organic-which it held in solution and descending gives us one of the purest forms of water found in Nature.

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