

water supply. The Province of Quebec is scarcely less helpless. Federal control would be effective at least as far as contamination from the Canadian cities and towns is concerned, and federal action would be infinitely more likely to meet with response from our neighbours in the adjoining republic than would be any action taken by a city or provincial health department.

An occasional case of typhoid developing in our midst causes but little concern, but it is stated that this disease costs the United States not less than \$185,000,000 annually, and if we in Canada suffer in like proportion it means that we lose by it over \$16,000,000 per year in mere money. In the year 1900, 35,379 deaths were recorded as due to typhoid in the United States—and of course many more were not recorded. Probably we lose in Canada not less than 3,000 of our people every year because of this disease. The outlay on account of typhoid in the British army in the recent war in South Africa approximated £4,000,000. More than 30,000 (31,118) British soldiers suffered from this disease, and nearly as many died from typhoid as from wounds received in battle. (Deaths from wounds, 7,582; from typhoid, 5,877; from other diseases, 5,149.) And yet the disease is one which we should be able to control absolutely. As has been stated by Budd, "The excreta to which all these fatal prerogatives are assigned are, on their issue from the body, entirely within our power." To prevent further contamination from water supplies, therefore, thorough disinfection of all discharges of typhoid patients is all that is necessary, but as such discharges may continue to be infective indefinitely, this disinfection may have to be continued for a prolonged period, and should be under the direction of a public health officer. To render harmless already infected water it should be either boiled or filtered. Few filters are reliable, but there are several on the market which are applicable to any house service, and which are quite efficient.

Individual effort would count for much in the fight against this, as indeed against any, disease, but, just as in the case of other diseases mentioned, organized action is necessary to good results. I could relate many instances in which signal triumph