

FACTS ABOUT SALEM WATER LAID BARE

SUPPRESSIONS AND DISTORTIONS OF DR. WOODS HUTCHINSON EXPOSED BY J. H. ALBERT.

"He Doth Protest Too Much!"--Dr. Smith, Palliating Hutchinson's Offense, Stultifies the Board--Laying Typhoid to the Water Supply First, He Now Says "The Polluted Areas Have Been Washed Off and the Difficulties of Bacteriological Examinations Are Therefore Increased."

From Portland Daily Oregonian, October 13, 1903.

Salem, Or., Oct. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Propose of Salem's water supply, notwithstanding my vigorous disclaimer, you still accuse me of hostility to the state board of health. Now, unless Dr. Woods Hutchinson is authorized by his colleagues in the board of health to proclaim it as "Le Grand Monarch" did of France, I am the board," then he is not the board.

I understand there has been no determination of this matter by the board. There appears to be no report or other record in the premises, and I am reliably informed that the water company has not been advised of any action of the board, the only one received by it being from Dr. Hutchinson and Dr. Pierce to the effect that the board had caused to be made both chemical and bacteriological examinations and found "no color or typhoid bacilli, nothing the matter with the water."

President Andrew Smith's statement reported in your paper of the 10th, viz: "My only regret is that we

out its whole length, of menthol blue, with the result that it was found perfectly tight. Indeed his statement in your paper of October 4, viz: "The board is informed that the pipe leaks and admits the water of the slough, but it has no reliable evidence to this effect," was made only four days after the test was made and after it had been reported to the board, by a member thereof, attesting the perfect condition of the suction pipe.

Again, Dr. Hutchinson suppressed the fact that he had visited the filter crib and found that not one drop of river water could enter it without having first passed through over 70 feet of solidly packed sand and gravel.

Source of Salem's Water.

I present herewith a plan showing the filter crib, 20x60 feet, divided into 12 individual cribs, each ten feet square, and a section of the intake or suction pipe.

It will be seen from this plan that the crib is sunk in a solid bed of gravel and at a depth that brings the top of the crib two feet below the low water line, and the bottom of the

crib below the bottom of the river bed. The top of the crib is perfectly tight, consisting of six layers of two-inch plank. The sides of the crib down to the river bed are encased, water tight thus forcing all the water that enters the crib to go below the bottom of the river, the bed of the crib not being enclosed. Below are about eight feet of the crib below the river bed line for filtering purposes. The intake pipe enters the crib at a point seven feet below low water line and extends downward into the crib nine feet, making the point of intake 16 feet below low water line and below the bottom of the river bed. The whole is completely covered with 11 feet of gravel, leaving the gravel bar in its natural condition. The water thus drawn from beneath the bed-rock below the bed of the river is conducted from the crib through the 24-inch intake or suction pipe to supply the large pumps which force it through the mains to the consumers.

The nearest point from which water can be drawn from the river into the filter crib is at the intersection of the surface line which at this stage of the is at or near low-water mark, which is 77 feet from the east end of the filter crib. When the water in the river is over the filter crib, it must pass down through 16 feet of sand and gravel before it can enter the crib.

From the point in this plan reached by the suction, it passes easterly through the island, then through the slough, which lies east of the island, thence to the works.

Whence Infection Comes.

Now, the only reasonable theory which will account for the spread of the disease from its original source, viz: Mill Creek and the wells infected by its water, is that the defects from the intestines of its victims have entered the intestines of others, and granted the imperviousness of the water company's suction, the location of the intake being beyond the island and above the city makes infection from that source a physical impossibility. This fact, too, was suppressed by Dr. Hutchinson. Typhoid fever's prevalence in Salem, originating be-

yond question at the state institutions and reaching the city through them, indicates that the cause of its continuance should be sought within the range of possible contamination.

But the secretary of the board seemed to be vainly looking for germs from the upper river, ignoring the fact now being heralded by current medical journals (see Medical Journal's comment on present Philadelphia epidemic) that there are other more dangerous media for carrying the infection than water. "That typhoid is presumably a milk-borne disease, further that it proliferates in milk, which it does not in potable water.—That bacteriologists find in milk a splendid culture for bacteria.—That this is especially true of the germs of erysipelas, pneumonia, typhoid fever, etc., and in a more restricted sense also of cholera."

Milk a Source of Infection.

"Senate Document 441" of the 57th Congress, entitled "Milk in relation to Public Health" gives a tabulated history of 193 milk epidemics of typhoid involving over 8000 cases and causing 691 deaths, from which reports I

quote: "In 148 of these epidemics there is evidence of the disease having prevailed at the farm or dairy. In 67 instances it is probable that the infection reached the well water with which the utensils were washed, and in 16 instances the intentional dilution with polluted water is a matter of evidence."

"In No. 184 the bacteria coli commune was demonstrated in the wash water. In Nos. 149 and 183 it is claimed that the specific germ of typhoid fever was isolated in the water supply, and in No. 139 sewerage bacteria were found in ice cream sold by street vendors. In seven instances the infection is attributed to the cows drinking or wading in sewerage-polluted water and meadows. In four instances the infection was spread in ice cream prepared in infected premises. In seven instances the infection was spread through milk delivered at creameries. In 24 instances the dairy employees also acted as nurses. In ten instances the patients, while suffering from a mild attack of enteric fever or during the first week or ten days of their illness continued at work, and those who are familiar with the personal habits of the average dairy boy will have no difficulty in surmising the manner of direct digital infection. In one instance the health officer believed the milk was infected by absorbing exhalations from the defects of the patient while being carried down the stairs."

This recalls the recent typhoid epidemic at Stanford, resulting in an unusual number of fatalities.

The water supply was first suspected, but chemical and bacteriological examinations proved it to be innocuous, but an examination of the milk supply disclosed the cause and its contamination was traced to the water in which the utensils were washed, the new milk being a splendid culture for colonies of the bacteria.

Now it is known that the family of the proprietor of one of the dairies supplying Salem with milk there has been a case of typhoid fever, now convalescent and I know of an instance where milk was furnished by one fam-

ily in which was a case of the fever, which resulted within the period of incubation in a case of typhoid fever in the family supplied.

If the secretary would drop his microscope and stop talking long enough to do or have done a little detective work at Salem, he might be better qualified to account for the spread of the disease beyond its original bounds, than by looking for microbes at long range through a microscope or telescope.

Water as Pure as Bull Run.

In view of all these facts, viz., the isolation of the water supply and the ease with which the disease may be spread through other media, I can as confidently say of Salem's public supply as Dr. Hutchinson does on the same grounds of Bull Run, that "never has there been a well-authenticated case of typhoid fever from its use." Had President Smith's policy prevailed, it would manifestly be unfair to make public any of the evidence taken until the determination of the investigation, but inasmuch as the indiscretion of the secretary in prematurely stopping over has distorted

the situation and misled the public, it is but just to ask that the results of the chemical and bacteriological examination be published. I, therefore, ask that, as a matter of justice to our people who procure and publish the chemists' certificate of analysis of the water—all of them—and the reports of the bacteriological examinations; also for the purpose of comparison, an analysis of the normal water of the district or in lieu of that, one of Bull Run water as fairly representing it.

Dr. Smith Hedges.

That President Smith, after his rebuke of the secretary's indiscretion, should come to his defense I think is due to his sympathetic nature, seconded by professional esprit de corps. His statement that "At this time, after the heavy rains, the manifestations of typhoid are not so plain as they have been. The polluted areas have been washed off and the difficulty of bacteriological examinations is thereby increased. I suspect that the water company at the Salem has improved its pipe line under the slough so as to prevent the admittance of typhoid germs from that polluted water. If the reform has been made, we shall be glad to know it and if we find no further traces of disease-breeding germs, we shall be pleased again." I regard as a politic effort to hedge in his former reckless statement in regard to the water based upon the secretary's misrepresentations. The subjoined expression from the secretary only two days before, would indicate that "doctors disagree" even though they belong to the same board. "At this season of the year exists the greatest danger of typhoid, when surface drainage begins to flow. The Board of Health will continue the bacteriological and chemical tests."

The doctor should know that no change in the suction pipe line has been made. It is a 24-inch steel pipe and lies in exactly the same position as when placed there five years ago. It is periodically examined for the water company by a diver, but no leaks or other defects have been discovered, and when Dr. Smith made this statement he knew of the result of the color test made by direction

of the secretary, proving it to be tight.

Before the board began its investigations, the Salem papers announced that the owners of the plant proposed to pay the expense of a diver from Portland in order to have the suction pipe examined by them, but the board apparently deemed this unnecessary, and have relied upon the color test, above noted, with the result stated.

Dr. Hutchinson's assertion in one of his characteristic interviews that "Mr. Albert may have yet an opportunity to give \$500 to Salem Hospital," suggests the thought that all uncertainty as to the hospital receiving \$500 on the result of this controversy can be dispelled if the doctor will evince the same confidence in his opinion that I have in mine.

Might Use Shorter Word.

Apropos of this statement: "Some (Continued on page seven.)"

SCOTT'S EMULSION

makes pale, thin children fat and chubby. Overcomes wasting tendencies and brings back rosy cheeks and bright eyes.

It's surprising how quickly children respond to Scott's Emulsion. It contains just the element of nourishment their little bodies need. They thrive on it.

Even a few drops in the baby's bottle have a noticeable effect for good. Nothing better than Scott's Emulsion for growing children.

We'll send you a sample free upon request. SCOTT & BOWNE, 409 Pearl Street, New York.



For Sale By

R.M. WADE & CO.

Willamette University

JOHN H. COLEMAN, PRESIDENT, SALEM, OREGON.

College of Liberal Arts, Law, Art, Medicine, Music, Oratory, Theology.

PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT—Open to students completing eighth grade department—lower grades in preparatory department. Besides affording professional training, the University seeks to give a thorough practical education for all who are aware of the value of trained brain.

THE NORMAL DEPARTMENT—Offers a thorough course in the theory and practice of teaching. Meets all the requirements of state school law. Its teachers are in constant demand.

Catalogue Upon Application.



E. S. IANFERT, Est. 1869

—OLDEST—

HARNESSHOUSE

in Oregon.

Largest Stock

Get my prices on a fine

BUGGY HARNESS

289 Commercial St

Harritt & Lawrence

Sell more Groceries and better Groceries than ANYBODY There's where you get GOOD treatment and GOOD goods Stop in and for yourself. OLD P. O. GROCERY.

D. S. BENTLEY.

Wholesale and Retail.

Roche Harbor Lime, Alsen Cement, Lath and Shingles, Sand and Gravel

And all kinds of Building Material. All kinds of Heavy Hauling and Transfer Work done on short notice. 161-163 Commercial Street.

CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK of Salem.

Only National Bank in Marion Co. Transacts a gen. Banking business.

:::: Savings Department ::::

Conducted under regular savings bank rules. Deposits of one dollar or more received at any time. Pass book issued to each depositor, which must accompany each deposit or withdrawal. Interest credited on the first days of July and January of each year.

JOHN SHOLUND

Opera House Block—MERCHANT TAILOR—Court Street Experienced cutter and fitter. Will guarantee all work. Also cleaning, pressing and repairing.

ve the matter premature publicity. y idea was that we should complete evidence before giving it public. " is a merited rebuke to the indistinctness of the garrulous secretary, should be held personally responsible for his unsupported assertions. Alleges Suppression of Fact.

His first interview, stripped of its adding and your glaring headlines, argues positively that Salem's water supply is the cause of two-thirds of the cases of typhoid fever occurring within the last three or four months, because the victims are supposed to have drunk of the water. I suppressed the fact that the and had procured the above mentioned series of both chemical analysis and bacteriological examinations, of them refuting the charge, and showing "nothing the matter with the water."

He further suppresses the fact that had directed the severest tests to be applied to the suction pipe which causes the slough, to ascertain if it is impervious, viz: The application of a member of the board, through-

Peculiar To Itself

what it is and what it does—containing the best blood-purifying, creative and tonic substances and being the most radical and permanent cures of all humors and all ailments, relieving weak, tired, and building up the whole system—is true only of **Food's Sarsaparilla**

Another medicine acts like it; another medicine has done so much real, substantial good, no other medicine has restored health and strength at so little cost. I was troubled with scrofula and came losing my eyesight. For four months I did not see to do anything. After taking Food's Sarsaparilla I could see again, and when I had taken eight bottles I was as well as ever." SCOTT & BOWNE, N. Y.

Food's Sarsaparilla promises to and keeps the promise.