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# Disease, Fire and Water in the Nineteenth Century city A Bibliography

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DISEASE, FIRE AND WATER IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CITY:  
A BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*John H. Taylor*

Disease, fire and water have received little historical treatment in the development of the Canadian city. For fire, perhaps the only good material, confined to eastern Canada and the nineteenth century, is John Weaver and Peter De Lottinville, "The Conflagration and the City: Disaster and Progress in British North America during the Nineteenth Century," unpublished paper delivered at the Canadian Historical Association, Annual Meeting, London, June, 1978. Water is served somewhat better, though one of the best single items is also unpublished: Elwood Jones and Douglas McCalla, "Toronto Waterworks, 1840-77: Continuity and Change in Nineteenth Century Toronto Politics," unpublished paper delivered at the Canadian Urban History Conference, Guelph, May, 1977. Fortunately material on Winnipeg is published. See Alan F. J. Artibise, Winnipeg: A Social History of Urban Growth, 1874-1914 (Montreal and London: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1975), Chapter 12. Among the published material, see also, Louis P. Cain, "Water and Sanitation Services in Vancouver: An Historical Perspective," BC Studies, No. 30 (Summer 1976), pp. 27-43; and F. L. Small, The Influent and the Effluent: The History of Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Saskatoon: Modern Press, 1974). The latter contains some Canadian material, though the perspective is global. For Ottawa, a solid, though largely technical manuscript is available: Roxroy West, "The Ottawa Water Works: Queen Street Pumphouse, 1859-1876 and 1876-1949," Report presented to the Canadian Engineering Heritage Record, 30 March 1975.

Non-Canadian material is more extensive and probably the best item is Nelson Manfred Blake, Water for the Cities, Maxwell School Series-III (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1956). The reader might also consult some older British material: Henry Jephson, The Sanitary Evolution of London (New York: Benjamin Bloom, Inc., 1972,

first published in 1907), and F. W. Robins, The Story of Water Supply (London: Oxford University Press, 1946). In a more technical vein, see F. E. Turneure and H. L. Russell, Public Water Supplies (New York and London: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1940).

Health is better served still, though the Canadian material is thin. Invaluable sources are the annual reports of the various city medical health officers, and the annual reports of the provincial boards of health found in the various sessional papers. These latter often contain synoptic articles on the development of public health. Recent scholarly articles include Margaret W. Andrews, "Epidemic and Public Health: Influenza in Vancouver, 1918-19," BC Studies, No. 34 (Summer 1977), pp. 21-44; and Geoffrey Bilson, "Canadian Doctors and the Cholera," Canadian Historical Association, Historical Papers, 1977, pp. 104-119; and Artibise, Winnipeg: A Social History of Urban Growth, Chapter 10. Other material of interest includes: Canadian Public Health Association, The Federal and Provincial Health Services in Canada, R. D. Defries, ed., 2nd ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1962); R. D. Defries, ed., The Development of Public Health in Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1940); C. M. Godfrey, The Cholera Epidemics in Upper Canada, 1832-1866 (Toronto and Montreal: Seccombe House, 1968); John Joseph Heagerty, Four Centuries of Medical History in Canada (London: Simpkin Marshall, 1928); William B. Howell, Medicine in Canada, Clio Medica Series (New York: P. B. Hoeber, 1933); H. E. MacDermott, "Pioneering in Public Health," Canadian Medical Association Journal, No. 99 (1968), pp. 267-73; Jonathin C. Meakins, "Typhoid Fever in the 1890s and the 1930s," Canadian Medical Association Journal, No. 42 (1940), pp. 81-82; R. Mitchell, "How Winnipeg Waged War on Typhoid Fever," Manitoba Medical Review, No. 49 (1969), pp. 166-7.

For non-Canadian material, perhaps the best place to begin (though somewhat dated) is John J. Hanlon, Fred B. Rogers and George Rosen, "A Bookshelf on the History and Philosophy of Public Health," American Journal of Public Health, No. 50 (1960), pp. 445-58. Other useful works include: American Public Health Association, A Half Century of Public Health, M. P. Ravenel, ed. (New York: Arno Press and New York

Times, 1970; a facsimile of the 1921 edition), which includes an article by Peter H. Bryce, "The Story of Public Health in Canada," pp. 56-65, as well as articles on water and sanitation in the U.S.; a quick synopsis of the British scene by an expert is Asa Briggs, "Public Health: The Sanitary Idea," and "Public Health: The Health of the Nation," in The Origins of the Social Services (London: New Society Social Studies Readers, n.d.); and R. A. Lewis, Edwin Chadwick and the Public Health Movement, 1832-1854 (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., 1952). R. J. Morris, Cholera 1832: The Social Response to an Epidemic (London: Croom Helm, 1976) is probably the state of the art on contagious disease and public health and should not be overlooked. Another recent and valuable article is Patricia Herlihy, "Death in Odessa: A Study of Population Movements in a Nineteenth Century City," Journal of Urban History, Vol. 4, No. 4 (August 1978), pp. 417-442. The classic work on public health is George Rosen, A History of Public Health (New York: MD Publications, Inc., 1958). The standard work on epidemics in the U.S. is Charles E. Rosenberg, The Cholera Years (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1968). See also Sam Bass Warner, Jr., "Public Health Reform and the Depression of 1873-1878," Bulletin of the History of Medicine, No. 29 (1955), pp. 503-16; J. H. Williams, A Century of Public Health in Britain, 1832-1929 (London: A and C Black Ltd., 1932); and for a quick review, see R. M. Wishnow, "The Conquest of the Major Infectious Diseases in the United States: A Bicentennial Retrospect," Annual Review of Microbiology, No. 30 (1976), pp. 427-50. A bibliography on the subject should not be left without mention of William H. McNeill, Plagues and Peoples (Garden City, New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1976).