REASONS FOR REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS MANY.

tigation is to determine between that which is a nuisance from an aesthetic point of view and that which is unsanitary. The term aesthetic is used here in its broadest sense, to wit: odors from abbatoirs, and manfg. plants, etc. while they are a nuisance because of the discomfort produced by the bad odors, really do not cause disease, hence the Department has no jurisdiction—here the grand jury has the right to indict for the maintenance of such a nuisance; the same may be said of a dog kennel. Then too a civil suit can be had on the ground that such nuisances are detrimental to property, reducing its value. In this connection many suits have resulted in the Back River District on account of odors from the Baltimore sewerage disposal plant, and yet in no instance have I heard it proved a case of illness resulted from that very large system.

Water in the cellar of a home is also a nuisance to those renting the house, but the people in the house or in the neighborhood are never affected. Those owning their own homes and who have water in their cellars never complain and say it never makes them sick. Good drainage will relieve the situation, but the Department has no right to interfere.

Pig pens are frequently complained of. They are prohibited on or near streams used for drinking purposes, but otherwise are not subject to abatement by the Department. Grand jury and civil suits are the remedy.

Anthrax, beriberi, botulism, bubonic plague, chickenpox, smallpox, diphtheria, dysentary, typhoid fever, measles, malaria, mumps, rabies, scarlet fever, typhus fever, tuberculosis and many other diseases are not contracted from such causes.

Rubbage and garbage are prohibited from being dumped in certain specified places, but this is largely the result on account of the aesthetic side of the case. It is contrary to the ideas of general cleanliness.

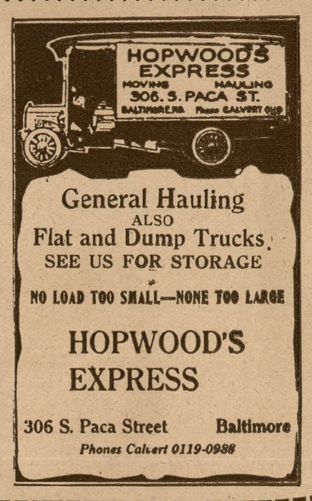
Dead animals are not permitted to remain unburied because of crows and buzzards who feed upon them and who are likely to spread the infection from which they died to other animals, perhaps highly improbably in some instances indirectly to people.

Stagnant water that breeds mosquitoes is certainly a nuisance because the mosquitoes bite people and irritate them. The Department can only act when there is actual malaria in the neighborhood and the larvae of a certain species of mosquito are found in the stagnant water. Just because water ponds look green and slimy it is no indication that they are unhealthy. For personal comfort and on account of civil pride all streams of water should be kept clean of obstructions so that the water may not be impeded. Ponds of no economic value should be drained and filled in and depressions in land surface treated the same way.

Unsanitary outhouses, overflowing cesspools and septic tanks and manure piles in thickly settled localities and properties that are in dirty or unclean condition are nuisances whether the Department can always prove it or not. It is from these sources that typhoid fever, dysentary, cholera infantum, infantile diarrohea, at times tuberculosis because of flies and the pollutul soil spread these diseases. In all such instances the Department makes the effort to have such nuisances abated by education and moral suasion, but when neither succeed the law governing such cases is invoked.

Many complaints are the result of family and neighbors' quarrels resulting in one or the other using the Health Department to "get back at the other," and many times the complainant is as bad as the one complained about. It is frequently our experience to receive a complaint to which nuisance the complainant is a contributor in no small degree.

On a farm or in a small village a proper water supply and proper sewerage disposal is essential if the people living there want to keep well—in each instance such a water supply and sewerage disposal is or should be maintained as the case may be by the individual or proper persons in the small villages—but in thickly settled sections such as we have in Baltimore county the problem is too stupenduous for such individual supervision, hence these problems must be taken over by the local government. I regard the action of the recent Legislature creating the Metropolitan District in Baltimore County as one of the greatest steps of progress for the benefit of the people. It will result in a greater popu lation, increased land values a well as affording protection t life and as "Public Health is Pur chasable" this is one of the way of buying it.



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The Chesapeake and Potomac and The Bell System

¶ There is a natural public interest in the details of the agreement between The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the parent company of the Bell System. Under this arrangement the A. T. and T. Company renders to this Company and the other Bell operating companies throughout the country certain services, which, measured in terms of value to telephone users, are worth many times more than the payment therefor.

Here are the facts about these services, the payment therefor and its effect on telephone rates.

The Services of the A. T. and T. Company

The A. T. and T. Company provides:

All telephone transmitters and receivers used by our patrons and ourselves, including a supply sufficient to cover current demands.

Rights under all patents owned or controlled by the A. T. and T. Company and a guarantee of freedom from royalties, damages or expense on account of the use of such patents.

An organization to prosecute continuously the fundamental work of research and investigation for the study of every branch of the telephone art, through which are developed and made available to the C. and P. Company thousands of improvements and inventions which make for progress, efficiency and economy in furnishing telephone service.

Advice and assistance in general engineering, plant, traffic, commercial, accounting, legal, financial and administrative matters.

A connection with the nation-wide toll service of the A. T. and T. Company, which enables every Maryland subscriber to talk to practically every point in the United States and points in Canada and in Cuba.

The Payment for These Services

The C. and P. Company, as is the case with other Bell operating companies, pays the A. T. and T. Company for these services 4½% of its gross revenue. The payment in the State of Maryland for the year 1923 was $381,345. With an average of 154,135 telephones in service during the year, the average payment per telephone was $2.47.

Effect on Telephone Rates

The annual use of the telephone receiver and transmitter, which is included in the foregoing amount, has been valued by regulatory bodies at from 90c to $1.25. Deducting the lower value of 90c from $2.47, it will be seen that the amount per telephone paid for the remaining service above described is $1.57, or 13c monthly. This amount bears a negligible relation to the average monthly telephone bill, and it is in fact so small a factor in the Company's expense account that its inclusion has little effect on telephone rates.

¶ That this arrangement is necessary in a business so highly technical as the furnishing of a nation-wide telephone service cannot be questioned. That the services provided can be performed with the maximum of economy and efficiency by a single organization, working for all the Bell System companies, should be obvious. It has been and is still the mainspring in the development and progress of the telephone industry.

¶ As to paying the A. T. and T. Company for these services, the situation of the A. T. and T. Company, as owner of the common stock of the C. and P. Company, does not differ from that of any other individual or corporate owner of a controlling interest in a corporation. Such a stockholder, performing services for such a corporation, is clearly entitled to payment therefor apart from dividends on his investment.

¶ The arrangement is widely known in all its details. It has been the proper subject of inquiry by many state regulatory bodies and the courts and has met with general approval.

THE CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC TELEPHONE CO. — BELL SYSTEM — AMERICAN TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CO.

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