fish. It was observed, first upon the upper service and about ten days elapsed before it extended generally throughout the city. In Elk street, the water was distinctly marked by this peculiar fishy taste and odor for several days before it was observed in the large main in Washington street, from which the large pipe in Elk street derives its supply. In October, 1854, impurities similar in taste and odor, and apparently following the same law in extending through the mains were discovered in Boston. So general were the complaints, and so offensive the water, that a thorough examination of Cochituate Lake and an analysis were deemed imperative. The subject was referred to Professor E. N. Horsford and Charles T. Jackson, Esq, eminent chemists of Massachusetts, who, after separate and distinct analysis, arrived at the same conclusion."

In closing an elaborate report, Prof. Horsford says: "The recent peculiar taste in the Cochituate water is, in the judgment of the undersigned, due chiefly to extracts more or less volatile from the decaying of minute aquatic organisms, for the most part vegetable, which, during the late prolonged drought, have been produced in extraordinary quantity upon the low meadow marshes, bog and peat land which supply the surface drainage to Cochituate Lake."

The following extract from the conclusion of the report made by Charles T. Jackson, Esq, gives the result of his observations and experiments:

"I regret as much as any one that we have not been able to settle all the interesting questions that have arisen, as to the origin of the impurity complained of. This much we have done – we have proved that the peculiar taste of the water does not originate within the pipes, but exists at the fountain head, and that it is not the result of animal putrefaction, but of vegatable fermentation, and that there is nothing deleterious in the water. These are some points gained. In time we may search out the other matters should the evil ever occur again.

"My examinations, although they satisfied me that the origin of the cause affecting the water in Ran-

selear Lake, was attributable to vegetable fermentation, and not to animal decomposition, did not lead me to the same conclusion (as to the particular material thus fermented) arrived at by Professor Horsford and Jackson. Instead of a drought, the summer and autumn of 1853 had been peculiarly marked by frequent and heavy rains, while the lake had been maintained at a uniformly high flow line for months, leaving only a small area of peat land uncovered and subject to the action of the sun.

"Beside, while Cochituate lake receives a large surface drainage, Ranselear lake is principally supplied by springs underlaying a stratum of yellow sand, from ten to thirty feet in thickness, the adjacent lands affording no water shed, except when the ground is frozen.

"It is evident, therefore, that while the peculiar taste and odor of the water, in both instances, were similar, the circumstances under which they were developed were not the same. As my opinion of the operating cause in Ranselear lake depends for the most part on observations, it may be deemed empirical to submit it to the public until verified by experiment."

Notwithstanding the confidence expressed in the above extracts, that all causes of impurity had been removed from Ranselear Lake, and that the citizens need not fear any deterioration in its quality, when the committee visited the Albany water works last July, the water then delivered into the city was wholly unfit for domestic use, and renewed efforts were being made to determine the precise cause. From all the facts above stated in connexion with all the other important facts, that the water of Ranselear and Cochituate Lakes are remarkably pure, and that periodical deterioration exists only in those cities where the supply is from Lake storage

The committee are constrained to the belief that be the precise cause what it may, and it is evidently as yet undetermined, yet that cause exists only in connexion with the system of storage. They therefore consider that its adoption as a means of supply to the city of Baltimore, under all the circumstances, would be highly injudicious.