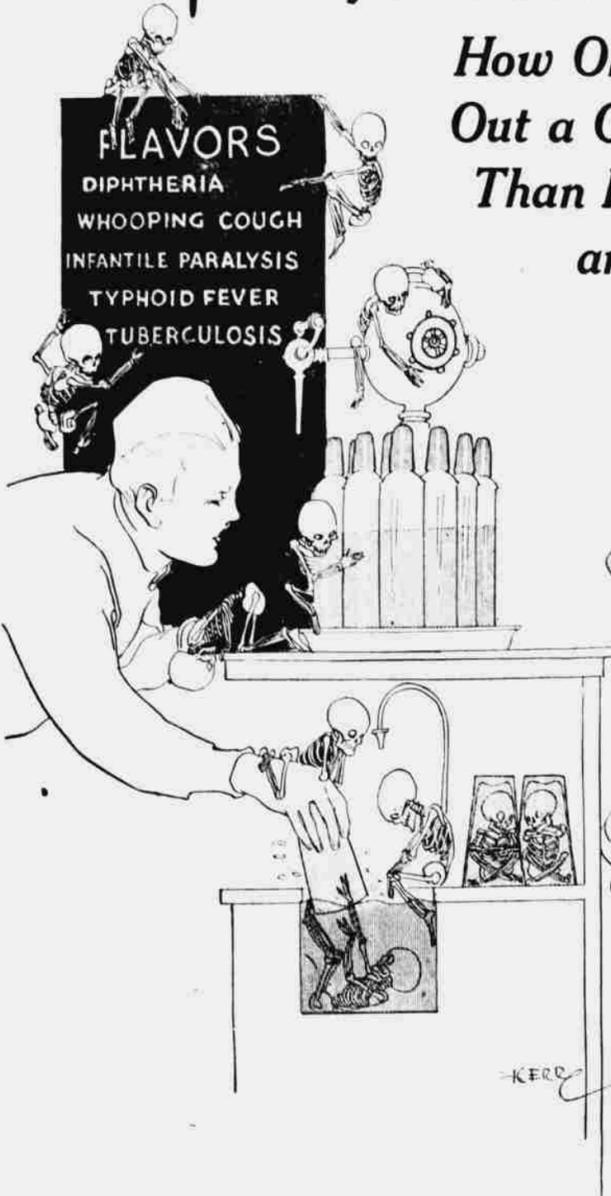


To Stop Dirty Soda Fountains from Spreading Disease and Death

How Ohio Is Leading the Way in Wiping Out a Graver Menace to Life and Health Than Even the Common Drinking Cup and Roller Towel---and the Necessity of Country-Wide Legislation to Curb Criminal



Soda Fountains That Fail to Sterilize Their Glasses and Safeguard Their Patrons in Other Ways Which Health and Common Decency Demand Are Continually Passing Deadly Germs from Mouth to Mouth. They Are Often, Science Believes, One of the Chief Causes of Epidemics of Infantile Paralysis, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Whooping Cough and Other Diseases. This Cartoon Illustrates in Striking Fashion the Peril.

A MAN walked into the office of Dr. J. Morton Howell, a well known physician of Dayton, Ohio, the other day and complained of a severe sore throat.

The doctor made an examination and found him suffering from a serious infectious disease. As a result of its ravages his throat was highly inflamed and so reeking with germs that he was almost certain to infect whatever his lips touched. After treating the man's throat with an antiseptic solution the physician gave him a prescription for medicines to be taken internally and warned him to be careful not to kiss his wife and children or to let them eat or drink from utensils he had used.

That same afternoon Dr. Howell chanced to enter a drug store. There, standing at the soda counter, he saw this patient of his enjoying a long, cool drink. Dr. Howell's curiosity was aroused. He lingered to see just what would happen to the glass that was being brought into contact with those germ-laden lips. And this is what he saw:

A young man in a soiled linen coat, with dirty hands and nails poorly kept, reached for the glass as soon as it was empty.

He dipped it hurriedly in a tub of cold water that was thick and discolored from the rinsing of hundreds of other glasses. A careless wipe with a towel that was damp and far from clean was the next step in the "cleansing" of the glass.

Then, picking up the glass in such a way that his moist, dirty fingers touched

its inner and outer edge just where one's lips do the clerk placed it on the counter to await the next customer.

All this was entirely inadequate to remove the danger of disease, and the glass remained as capable of spreading infection as it had been when it left the lips of the man with the sore throat. In fact, its cargo of disease germs had probably been considerably increased by contact with the soda clerk's dirty hands, the dirty towel and the rinsings of many other glasses.

Multiple instances like this hundreds of times daily, and you have a faint idea of the deadly menace which exists in every soda fountain when not conducted along sanitary lines. Not only can the serious disease from which the man with the sore throat was suffering be spread in this way, but infantile paralysis, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, whooping cough and many other diseases can be thus passed on from one person to another until an epidemic is raging.

Dr. Howell was so impressed with what he had seen that, through his official position as a member of the Ohio State Board of Health, he promptly took steps to compel the proprietors of soda fountains and ice cream parlors to cleanse and sterilize their glasses, spoons and other utensils and to take other precautions which will put a stop to the spreading of disease and death. The result of the crusade which he inaugurated has been to make the State of Ohio the leader in a nation-wide movement to make soda fountains clean, sanitary and safe for the public to patronize.

The very stringent regulations adopted by the Ohio State Board of Health require the sterilization of all glasses, ice cream dippers, spoons, serving dishes or anything else that comes in contact with ice cream, soda water or sundaes. Merely washing and wiping are not sufficient—all utensils must be sterilized either with boiling water or by steam.

The articles must first be rinsed in cold water, then thoroughly washed in hot water with soap or cleaning powder, then exposed to live steam or boiling water from three to five minutes, and finally rinsed in cold, clean water and wiped with a clean, dry towel. This must be done with every utensil used in connection with the public sale of ice cream, soda water and similar foods and beverages before it can be used again. Suitable provision must also be made for taking care of the sterile utensils so that they will be kept clean and free from germs until used.

If it is impossible to make arrangements for live steam or boiling water, then paper cups and individual spoons must be used, these being destroyed as soon as they have done service for one person. The regulations also provide that refrigerators must be kept clean and free from infection, and that all persons connected either with the manufacture or sale of ice cream, soda water, and so forth, must be cleanly in person and dress and free from any communicable disease. The use of straws is positively forbidden unless they are carefully protected from the dust, dirt and disease germs which may gather on them

through exposure to the air or careless handling by employees.

But, some one may ask, why should soda fountains and ice cream parlors be singled out for such rigid supervision? Don't the same, or even greater, dangers of disease exist in every hotel, restaurant and dining car?

One reason why the soda fountain is a greater menace than other public eating and drinking places is that many of the things it sells are the best possible cultures in which to breed populous colonies of vigorous disease germs. Another reason is that in hotels, restaurants and dining cars boiling water and soap are liberally used in the washing of glasses and dishes. Until recently it was a rare thing to find any soda water fountain that had a supply of hot water or steam for the cleansing of its glasses, spoons and other utensils.

Investigation made in many Ohio cities showed that the soda fountain's greatest danger as a spreader of disease lay in its lack of clean, hot water. Until the Board of Health began to teach the importance of more sanitary methods glasses and spoons, once used, were thrown into a basin of cold and foul water and considered ready for use again without any further attention. For some reason, which it is hard to understand, even less care was taken in many instances with ice cream dishes.

Microscopic examination of carelessly washed glasses reveals enough deadly germs to infect a whole community, and proves beyond doubt that only the strictest cleanliness and the most careful sanitary precautions can make a soda fountain a safe place for you and your children to patronize. Unless the glasses are sterilized with steam or boiling water, unless the straws and other utensils are protected from dust and dirt, and unless the men and women who serve you are clean and healthy, death is bound to be constantly in attendance at the soda fountain, and the flavors served will include the germs of tuberculosis, typhoid fever, whooping cough, infantile paralysis, diphtheria and many other diseases.

The public drinking cup was found guilty of causing many epidemics that it was long ago abolished in nearly every State. But until recently little or nothing has been done to curb the dangerous tendencies of the soda water glass, which has even greater possibilities for evil than the common cup. A soda glass may be used by as many different persons, and the nature of the mixtures it contains makes it a much more favorable breeding place for germs than a cup used only for water.

An examination under the microscope of one carelessly washed soda water glass revealed in the thick coating of film which covered it both inside and outside more than 20,000 decaying human cells and bits of dead skin. Clinging to a single one of these cells there were counted 150 disease germs. The total germ population of the glass was estimated at

Carelessness and Neglect

3,000,000, representing a dozen serious diseases.

Dr. Tauxa, of the United States Public Health Service, believes that the dirty soda fountain has a great deal to answer for in connection with the spread of tuberculosis. He has frequently seen men and women in the advanced stages of consumption drinking at soda fountains where no effort was made to cleanse the glasses and other utensils beyond a hurried rinsing in standing water.

Children are most seriously menaced by the dirty fountain because they are so fond of soda water and ice cream and because their powers of resistance to disease are not yet well developed. Science is sure that there is no more certain way of exposing boys and girls to a wide variety of serious diseases than by letting them spend their nickels at soda fountains which fail to sterilize their glasses and take other sanitary precautions.

In the attempt to abolish the dirty soda fountain it is not sufficient to insist merely upon the equipment necessary to give sanitary service. The best equipped fountains are often the most unsanitary, on account of the indolence and ignorance of their employees. What seems to be needed are stringent regulations for safeguarding the health of patrons of soda fountains in every possible way, with severe penalties to the proprietors as well as to the clerks for neglect.

In addition to the sterilizing of glasses, spoons, etc., here are some of the conditions which every fountain should be required to meet:

Separate towels for drying glassware and for wiping counters and hands.

Soda dispensers to be persons of good health and cleanly habits, dressed in fresh, clean linen and with closely manufactured nails.

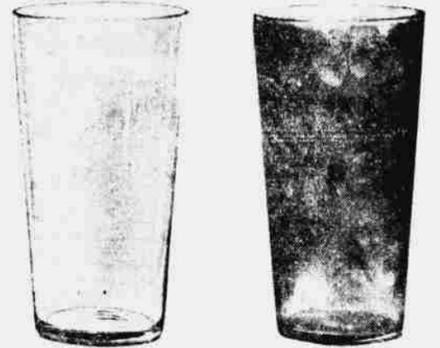
The tops of glasses never to be touched when serving and the hand never put inside a glass when taking from the counter.

All clean utensils and all supplies to be kept carefully covered.

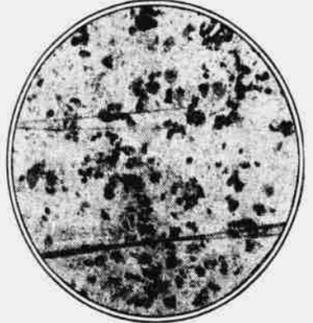
Good ventilation and fly screens.

Fountain to be thoroughly cleaned every night and all refuse emptied at least once a day.

In St. Joseph, Missouri, and in the State of Florida the health officials are not satisfied with sterilization with steam



On the Left a Glass from Which It Is Safe to Drink—Cleansed and Sterilized by Scientific Methods So That It Is Chemically Pure. On the Right a Photograph of a Glass "Washed" in the Careless Way Found at Many Soda Fountains. Both Glasses Were Rinsed in a Staining Solution. There Was Nothing to Hold the Stain in the Clean Glass. The Coloring in the Second Glass Was Retained as Shown by Its Coating of Grease and Decaying Human Cells in Which Disease Germs Thrive.



A Microscopic View of Human Cells and Bits of Dead Skin Found on a Soda Water Glass That Had Not Been Properly Cleansed and Sterilized. It Is in Such Decaying Matter That Disease Germs Thrive. On This Particular Glass There Were, It Was Estimated, Over 20,000 of Those Cells and Bits of Skin, and as Many as 150 Germs Were Seen Clinging to a Single Cell.

or boiling water, but require the use of chlorinated lime. This kills all microbes and insures a chemically pure glass dish or spoon.

It is too early yet to say definitely how much improvement in the public health may be expected to follow the cleaning up of the dirty soda fountains, James E. Bauman, assistant secretary of the Ohio Health Board, however, is already convinced that the fewest cases of communicable disease and the lowest death rate will be found in cities having the most sanitary soda fountains.

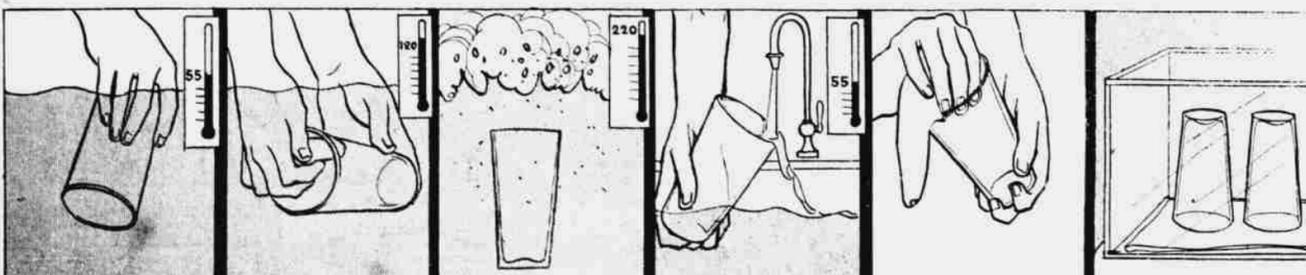
The well conducted soda fountain, one that deals in pure, wholesome materials and serves them in a clean, sanitary way, is an institution science believes should be encouraged. It not only promotes practical temperance, but contributes in no little degree to the comfort and pleasure of large numbers of people of every class. To allow anything so useful and pleasurable to jeopardize our health and lives is not to be thought of.

By educating the public to the importance of sanitary conditions it is hoped to hasten the day when no owner of a soda fountain can hope to attract patronage unless he maintains a high degree of cleanliness.



The Common Drinking Cup Was Responsible for Countless Epidemics Before It Was Finally Abolished. A Soda Water Glass May Be Used by Just as Many Different Persons as the Cup at the Street Fountain and Unless Thoroughly Cleaned and Sterilized Each Time It Is Used Is an Even More Dangerous Carrier of Disease.

How Soda Water Glasses Must Be Sterilized in Ohio to Prevent Their Spreading Disease Germs.



1. Rinsing in Clear, Cold Water Is the First Step in the Sterilization Process.

2. Washed in Hot Water with Plenty of Good Soap or Cleaning Powder.

3. Soak in Boiling Water for at Least Three and Preferably Four Minutes.

4. Finally Rinsed in Cold, Clean Water.

5. Wipe Dry and Polish with a Clean, Dry Towel.

6. Keep the Clean Glasses and Other Utensils Protected from Dust and Dirt.