

File No. 4921.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
WATER DEPARTMENT.

Baltimore, June 16, 1906.

Hon. W. Cabell Bruce,  
City Solicitor,  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:-

Several questions have arisen out of the condemnation of pumps and wells by the Health Department, on which questions I shall be pleased to have the benefit of your opinion.

Sections 8, 9 and 10 of Baltimore City Code of 1893 provide especially for the condemnation of pumps, wells, springs, &c. by the department of health and the action to be taken by the Water Engineer upon notification of such condemnation by the Health Commissioner. Section 8 provides for the analysis of water from any well to which the attention of the Health Commissioner has been called and which he has reason to believe may be contaminated; Section 9 provides that if the water is found on analysis to be unfit for drinking and detrimental to health the Health Commissioner shall condemn the well and notify the Water Engineer of his action; and Section 10 requires that upon such notification "the Water Engineer shall forthwith place the said well or wells in such condition as will prevent any water from being taken therefrom", and that he shall have put up in a conspicuous place "a sign board notifying the public that the water of the same has been condemned as unfit for use and detrimental to health."

The requirements of the above mentioned sections have been complied with for many years, but until very recently only an occasional pump well has been condemned at intervals of greater or less time. Beginning with the outbreak of typhoid fever in Woodberry-Hampden pumps have been condemned in large numbers; nearly a hundred in the last month. There has been a great deal of dissatisfaction among the residents of Woodberry-Hampden with these condemnations; for in pursuance with the requirements of the sections referred to it has been the custom of the department not only to post the pumps, but to remove the handle therefrom, in order to prevent any water being taken from the well.

-It has never occurred to me that there has been any question as