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Presumed Sewage Discharge in Genesee Valley Park*

*By: David J. Wilson
July 1968*

THE ROCHESTER COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION
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Water Pollution #43

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Location of site.

As one proceeds south into Genesee Valley Park from the River Boulevard-Elmwood Avenue intersection, one passes a statue of Edward Mott Moore on the east side of the road. On the west side of the road at this point is a narrow pond, which lies a short distance north of the five large picnic pavillions and a children's playground. On the east side of this pond is a rather tall tree stump with four large branch stubs. Approximately 8 feet east of the stump is what appears to be a small spring, which discharges into the pond.

Observations and coliform counts.

This site was discovered accidentally; a fetid septic odor was noted in the vicinity and followed to its source, the "spring" mentioned above. A growth of what appeared to be sewage fungus (a colonial bacterium characteristic of heavily polluted water) was found in the bed of the small stream flowing from the spring. Sewer man holes were noted in the immediate vicinity. Appearances indicate that the spring has been flowing for at least several months.

Total coliform counts (taken by the membrane filter method) were taken on the "spring" water and on water taken from the pond to which the spring flowed. Results were as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Coliforms/100 ml</u>
15 June '68	Spring	770,000
30 June '68	Spring	1.8 million
"	"	1.9 million
"	"	1.5 million
"	"	700,000
"	"	1.1 million
"	Pond	37,000
"	"	28,000

Samples from the spring were taken at ten minute intervals the morning of 30 June 1968.

Conclusions.

This spring water is heavily polluted with fecal matter, and is presumably from a leaky sewer line. Coliform counts in the pond are well in excess of those regarded as suitable for water to which the public is exposed. The presence of this fecal pollution in the vicinity of picnic pavillions and a playground, and in a heavily used portion of the park is regrettable, to say the least. Parents are advised to keep their children away from this pond until further notice. Park officials are advised to determine who is responsible for the discharge and to press for abatement as soon as possible.