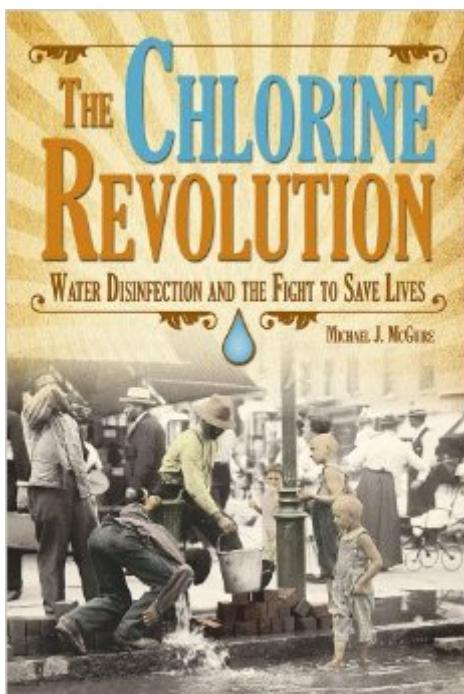


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Chlorine Revolution, The: The History Of Water Disinfection And The Fight To Save Lives



Synopsis

Perhaps no other advancement of public health has been as significant. Yet, few know the intriguing story of a simple idea-disinfecting public water systems with chlorine-that in just 100 years has saved more lives than any other single health development in human history. At the turn of the 20th century, most scientists and doctors called the addition of chloride of lime, a poisonous chemical, to public water supplies not only a preposterous idea but also an illegal act - until a courageous physician, Dr. John L. Leal, working with George W. Fuller, the era's greatest sanitary engineer, proved it could be done safely and effectively on a large scale. This is the first book to tell the incredible true story of the first use of chlorine to disinfect a city water supply, in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1908. This important book also corrects misinformation long-held in the historical record about who was responsible for this momentous event, giving overdue recognition to the true hero of the story-an unflagging champion of public health, Dr. John L. Leal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I wrote the Foreword and am posting it as my review. Can't beat that! Here goes:Many years ago, an engineer colleague told me that if I ever wanted to thank one person for the excellent state of public health in the USA, make sure I thanked an engineer. When I presented a puzzled mien, he proceeded to explain the role of the engineering profession in developing methods for treating wastewater and disinfecting drinking water. I certainly understood the difficulty in, and importance of, treating wastewater, but I scoffed at the disinfection aspect, especially the difficulty. 'What's the

big deal with disinfecting the drinking water? Just add some chlorine,' I replied. He responded with a glare that I suspect I'd given to some of my students over the years, and proceeded to lecture me on drinking water disinfection with chlorine. Little did I realize that, lo these many years later, I would be penning the foreword to a book titled, 'The Chlorine Revolution: Water Disinfection and the Fight to Save Lives', and being amazed at and enthralled by the wealth of information in Dr. Michael J. McGuire's book. Suffice it to say that in writing this book, Mike added two more hats to his engineering one - those of historian and detective. The book is meticulously researched and documented and well-written. Even I, as a non-engineer (hydrogeologist), have known Mike by reputation for a number of years. After all, he is a fellow 'water wonk' and (unlike me) a member of the National Academy of Engineering, an organization that does not suffer fools. I first met him several years ago when we both served on a National Research Council committee, and that in-person experience did nothing but enhance his reputation and my perception of his expertise.

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