**1. *DA* 8.6.10-11[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Habent autem tubulorum ductiones ea commoda. Primum in opere quod si quod vitium factum fuerit, quilibet id potest reficere. Etiamque multo **salubrior** est ex tubulis aqua quam per fistulas, quod per plumbum videtur esse ideo vitiosum, quod ex eo cerussa nascitur; haec autem dicitur esse nocens corporibus humanis. Ita quod ex eo procreatur, <si> id est vitiosum, non est dubium, quin ipsum quoque non sit **salubre**.

Exemplar autem ab artificibus plumbariis possumus accipere, quod palloribus occupatos habent corporis colores. Namque cum fundendo plumbum flatur, vapor ex eo insidens corporis artus et inde exurens eripit ex membris eorum sanguinis virtutes. Itaque minime fistulis plumbeis aqua duci videtur, si volumus eam habere salubrem. Saporemque meliorem ex tubulis esse cotidianus potest indicare victus, quod omnes, et structas cum habeant vasorum argenteorum mensas, tamen propter saporis integritatem fictilibus utuntur.

Water-supply by earthenware pipes has these advantages. First, if any fault occurs in the work, anybody can repair it. Again, water is much **more wholesome** from earthenware pipes than from lead pipes. For it seems to be made injurious by lead, because white lead is produced by it; and this is said to be harmful to the human body. Thus if what is produced by anything is injurious, it is not doubtful but that the thing is not **wholesome** in itself.

We can take example by the workers in lead who have complexions affected by pallor. For when, in casting, the lead receives the current of air, the fumes from it occupy the members of the body, and burning them thereupon, rob the limbs of the virtues of the blood. Therefore it seems that water should not be brought in lead pipes if we desire to have it wholesome. Our daily table may show that the flavour from earthenware pipes is better, because everybody, even when they pile up their tables with silver vessels, for all that, uses earthenware to preserve the flavour of water.

**2. *DA* 8.3.5-25**

* 8.3.5: Penne and Cutili (towns in Abruzzi) have an alkaline sort of cold spring; water has cleansing properties. Vitruvius further notes that these springs are unique since most springs near metal mines are impure and cause afflictions such as gout
* 8.3.6: at Athens and Piraeus there is a sort of impure water which is brought to these cities via conduits; a purply-glass colored foam floats on top of the water. People use it for bathing but not for drinking because it is impure.
  + The same type of impure water is found at Troezene, but they have no better water source and thus are forced to drink it. People here suffer from ill effects in their feet (gout?) because of it.
  + River Cydnus (near Tarsus) has water that relieves leg pain
* 8.3.7: In Sicily, one branch of the river Himeras runs through an area that has salt mines; water thus has a salty flavor
  + “At Paraetonium and on the road to the oracle of Ammon, and at Mt. Casius in Egypt, there are marshy lakes which contain so much salt that it cakes over them.”
* 8.3.8: “Other fountains flow through rich veins of soil and spring up with an oily surface.” Examples of this can be found in the river Liparis at Soli (a town in Cilicia); lakes in Ethiopia and India; a spring at Carthage; in Zacynthus, Dyrrachium, and Apollonia there are springs which discharge pitch with the water; “At Babylon there is a lake of wide extent which is called the Asphalt Lake, with liquid bitumen floating on it. Semiramis built a wall round Babylon of this bitumen and burnt-brick”; similarly at Joppa (in Syria) and Nomad Arabia there are large lakes which produce bitumen.
* 8.3.9: in Cappadocia there is a large lake which petrifies anything that falls into it
* 8.3.10: Hierapolis (Phrygia) – water run through channels for orchards, etc. leaves behind a stony crust
* 8.3.11: the Boug river tastes very bitter because it is contaminated by a small spring which springs up from an ore of red lead
* 8.3.12: trees/vines also are affected by the quality the soil, or else why would grapes grown in different regions produce such differing flavors of wine?
* 8.3.13: goes on to give further evidence of plants that show that climate and the juices from the soil affect the plants grown there. Relates these differences also to the place’s relationship to the sun.
* 8.3.14: cites the rivers Cephisus and Melas in Boeotia; the Crathis river of the Lucanians; the Xanthus of Troy; springs in the territories of Clazomenae, Erythrae and of Laodicea – all of these water sources cause the animals in the area to have a certain color hue to them.
* 8.3.15: a spring at Terracina caused death -w ater runs through soil from which it acquires toxic properties. The ancients are said to have stopped up the spring.
  + A lake at Chrobs in Thrace causes death to drinkers and bathers alike
  + In Thessaly, there is a running spring which animals avoid
* 8.3.16: at the tomb of Euripides in Macedonia there is a stream said to be poisonous
  + In the district of Nonacris in Arcadia there in an icy stream called the water of Styx, which no vessel can hold
* 8.3.17: water from a spring in the Alps (in the kingdom of Cottius) immediately kills those who drink it
  + “On the Via Campana in the Falerian district in the neighbourhood of Cornetum there is a spring in a grove; everywhere the skeletons of birds, lizards and other snakes are seen lying”
  + acid springs in Lyncestis, Velia (in Italy), Teanum (Campania), etc. “dissolve the stones which form in the human bladder”.
* 8.3.20: Paphlagonia – a spring here makes people drunk without wine
* 8.3.21: Clitor (Arcadia) – those who drink from the stream want no longer to drink wine
* 8.3.22: spring on Chios - drinkers become stupid
* 8.3.23: small spring in Susa – water ok for bathing but drinkers lose their teeth
* 8.3.24: Some spring cause those who drink of it to have fine singing voices, such as Tarsus in Magnesia
* 8.3.24: soil from Zama (Africa) seems to kill snakes

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1. Text and translations from Granger (1931) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)