

agree with the officer in this particular, and in fact would not consent to pursue any such course, believing that if followed the results would be injurious to the public health."

We read this a second time and a third, to see if we have comprehended the meaning of the learned chairman. We believe that all of the closets in connection with the schools are privies, not water-closets. At all events, it is said that nothing but liquid matter is allowed to flow into the sewer, and the closets are generally emptied once a year (although the Health Officer was informed the closets at the Dufferin School had never been emptied, having been in use for some five years, we believe). What, then, is meant by the statement, that where practicable the rain-water is used to assist in flushing the closets? If we understand the chairman, the opening of the pipes to carry off the liquid matter is placed three feet from the bottom. There is then allowed to collect three feet of faecal matter in the pit. When it rises above that the liquid will be drained off. Are we to understand that all the solid matter sinks to the bottom. Our own observation is that it often floats on the fluid. But how in the name of common sense is the occasional flow of rain-water to assist in flushing the closets? The simple fact is, the rain-water adds to the danger which attends decomposing faecal matter. During the summer, the liquid portion, at least, would in a great measure pass away by soakage and evaporation, and the danger become less; but the occasional rainfall supplies suitable conditions to keep up active fermentation. So, when the children return to the schools in September, which is usually a hot month, they stand a good chance of contracting poisonous material.

This is the present attitude of the Committee, after having "considered this matter carefully for years!" No, they would not consent to have the faecal matter carried away, because forsooth, it would be injurious to the public, if all the contents of

the pits were to be washed into the sewers. The simple fact is, that all the excretory matter from the schools flowing into the sewers, would be as a drop in the bucket to the volume of faecal matter now poured into the sewers from different sources. Then the liquid matter may be quite as deleterious as the more solid.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN TORONTO.

We have received the Annual Announcements of the Toronto and Trinity Medical Schools for 1883-4. We are glad to know that both are prosperous, and that their growth is quite in proportion to that of our flourishing city.

We note with pleasure that the Faculty of the Toronto School of Medicine "having found the summer session of 1883 successful beyond their expectations, have decided to make it a permanent feature in their course of instruction."

We are also glad to notice that the Toronto School Announcement of this year contains a complete catalogue of the very excellent museum in connection with that institution. Dr. Oldright, who has had charge for the last twelve years, had a large amount of material to commence with, has been making large additions every year from various sources, has worked most assiduously in putting his specimens in proper shape, has arranged the contents in a most convenient and suitable way, and now, as the result of his labours, can point to a collection which is as creditable to himself as we hope it will be useful to the students connected with his school.

The system, carried out for years, of having the clinical teaching of both medical schools in the hospital so arranged that it will be available for all the students in Toronto, will still prevail in the coming session. The students will thus be enabled to attend a course of practical hospital teaching which can scarcely be excelled on this continent.