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Original Communications.

THE RECENT CONFERENCE ON THE HEALTH AND SEWAGE OF TOWNS.

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Early in the present year it was suggested by prominent scientific men in Great Britain that the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture, and Commerce, should hold a conference on the "Health and Sewage of Towns," to which all parties interested in these questions should be invited to communicate their views by reading papers and by discussion. Reports were also invited from all the towns in Great Britain as to how the sewage and excreta were dealt with in each locality, with the cost and other particulars, including population and death-rate as far as obtainable. Communications on these subjects were also invited from the principal engineers and cities on the Continent; and a large amount of valuable information was received, including a paper from Captain Liernur, inventor of the pneumatic system for removing the excreta of towns, and five separate papers on the Liernur plan, now in operation in Amsterdam, Dordrecht, Leyden, Prague, Brunn, Olmutz, and Vienna. There was also an interesting paper on sewage irrigation in the vicinity of Paris, and another on the sewers and sewerage of Florence. Papers were also read and discussed by many of the principal engineers engaged on extensive sewer works, and by