

of families, surely, who could not be persuaded, on proper representations being made as to its danger, to adopt some other form of daily disposal of the excrement, as by mixing it daily with abundance of dry earth or coal ashes, and having it repeatedly removed. Even when so mixed, it should not be allowed to accumulate largely, and great care should be exercised in the proper disinfection or destruction of all excreta from patients suffering from infectious disease. All solid house refuse should be burned, as it may readily be, in the kitchen stove. Sink slops should be conveyed to a safe distance and distributed evenly onto the soil. In the next number of the JOURNAL we shall endeavor to give the domestic process adopted by Col. Waring, C. E., at his own home, for the disposal of kitchen

and other slops in the garden soil. Barnyard manure must be looked to in order that it cannot contaminate the well water. There is a good deal of evidence that from barnyards and stables comes the diphtheritic poison. In many conditions or formations of the neighboring soil a barnyard may easily contaminate a well a long distance away. Barns and stables on farms are often badly located. In towns and villages there must be more frequent removal of the stable accumulations. Those who have horses might, without much difficulty, remove it daily. The present system of disposal of waste matters, or, indeed, of not disposing of them at all, costs yearly thousands and thousands of lives. Health officers can do much to bring about a change.

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#### IMPORTANCE OF ISOLATION IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

IT is difficult to account for the indifference so universally manifested toward the only sure remedy we possess for preventing the spread of infectious or epidemic diseases, namely, complete isolation. Upon the spread of some of these diseases, notably small-pox, scarlet fever and measles, other sanitary measures, such as drainage and water supply, do not appear to have much influence (although such measures doubtless lessen the susceptibility or receptivity of the people to such diseases), hence the great reliance must be upon separation. When in the present state of knowledge of the nature of epidemic febrile or zymotic diseases any one, parent or physician, having charge of a patient suffering from any one of these diseases, is guilty of criminal neglect if he fail to isolate the patient in the most complete and careful manner possible in the circumstances, in order

that there shall be no direct, and as little as possible of indirect, communication between the patient and all other persons not completely protected from the disease, as by a previous attack or by a vaccination.

The practice of isolation, more or less complete, is yearly becoming more and more common with physicians. Municipal and health authorities, however, are very liable to be indifferent about making provision for this prophylactic, in times of health. We need hardly write a word to intelligent people on behalf of the principle of isolation. Its value in practice must be apparent to every intelligent person. It can only be through neglect that it is not almost universal. The feelings of parents who have not efficient means for isolation at their own home, and who are naturally averse to the removal of a child at a critical time from under