

A valuable plan is at present in use in various places: Dry earth has been found to be the best disinfectant that can be used, but the expense attending its use precludes it from being generally employed. There is, however, a good substitute; a large quantity of ashes is accumulated during the winter, which might be kept for summer use in a box close to the closet, and a small quantity thrown into the receptacle as occasion requires, and thus we would have one of the best and cheapest deodorants that could be devised. The plan is simple, easily carried into execution, and the youngest child using the closet could attend to it. The material thus obtained, if perfectly dried, would form one of the best fertilizing agents, so that part of the expense of removal would be defrayed by the sale of it. The daily removal of refuse, etc., is carried out in one section of Glasgow, which contains 80,000 people; it is sent long distances at a profit, and is applied at once to the land without any preparation. The same is done in other cities of Great Britain. At Baden the excreta of 8,000 soldiers is removed daily and applied to the land, so that what was once a sandy waste is now a garden, the profit for one year amounting to \$3,400. These are examples which should encourage us to do likewise, at any rate the benefit to public health would counterbalance any extra expense at the outset, and would be the most economical in the end.

*The application of Nitric Acid to the interior of the uterus.* By WILLIAM GARDNER, M.A., M.D.C.M., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, University of Bishops College.  
(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.)

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—The application of caustics to the interior of the uterus in certain cases of disease of this organ, is admitted by nearly all authorities on the diseases of women to be an established and legitimate practice. Much uncertainty may be said, however, to still exist as to the precise cases which require this mode of treatment, and a wide difference of opinion still prevails as to the best mode of making intra-uterine applications and the best agent for this purpose. Lately the use of nitric acid has been advocated by Dr. Atthill, of Dublin, and this advocacy sustained by a series of published results exceedingly favorable to the mode of treatment proposed. These results were published and the mode of application described in the *Obstetrical Journal* for June 1873. The cases in which Dr. Atthill found this remedy most useful were enlargement of the uterus, whether from subinvolution, or congestion and chronic inflammation of the

whole organ, as well as of the mucous lining membrane (endometritis)—conditions attended with pain, profuse menstrual discharge, and leucorrhœa. The intra-uterine application of nitric acid has been also found very useful in checking hæmorrhage after the removal of tumours from the interior of the uterus, and in cases of uterine fibroid, in such a situation as to render them incapable of relief by surgical measures.

Dr. Atthill has further found that granular and ulcerated conditions of the os uteri yield readily to the topical application of this remedy. The following case of subinvolution, treated by this remedy may, I hope, be not entirely wanting in interest, and will, I trust, aid in eliciting the experience of the members of this society in the use of remedies to the interior of the uterus.

Mrs. D—, a young married woman, was attended by myself in her first confinement, in the month of August of last year. The labor was somewhat tedious, but terminated naturally, and everything went well afterwards. She, however, insisted, contrary to my advice, in leaving her bed on the fifth or sixth day after delivery. About two months after her confinement she came to me complaining of pain in the back, bearing-down pains, and leucorrhœal discharge, and asserted that all these symptoms had existed, to a greater or less extent, ever since her confinement, and were aggravated by any unusual exertion. I made no examination at this time, but prescribed a mixture of tincture of iron and quinine, and directed her to use vaginal injections of a weak solution of tincture of iron in water. This treatment she persevered in for some time, but with only a moderate amount of benefit. I lost sight of her for three or four months, when she returned to say that all the symptoms she previously complained of were much aggravated, and that, in addition, the menstrual discharge had returned rather profusely, lasting for seven or eight days at each period, being preceded and attended by a good deal of pain, and that she suffered very much from the symptom, for which Dr. Barnes has coined the word “dyspareunia;” —painful sexual intercourse, the performance of this function being attended on each occasion by free bloody discharge, lasting for some hours. The slightest exertion now aggravates the pains previously complained of.

On examination with the finger in the vagina, the os uteri was somewhat patulous. When the finger was pushed up along the body of the uterus, this was found to be intensely tender. When the left hand was used to make pressure simultaneously on the