

The problem of Sewage Purification, has been given more or less study by Municipal Engineers, Chemists, Sanitary Boards and others interested in sanitary improvements for many years, in all portions of the civilized world, but in no country has it been given so close attention as in Great Britain. The density of the population, the great volume of the liquid wastes, the small size of the streams into which sewage could be discharged, and the limited areas from which water supplies could be drawn, have all contributed to the development and extension of sewage purification works that have become models for the world. As a corollary to these conditions, the general public in England has been educated to the necessity of such works, and the vast sums now being expended on sanitary works by different cities and towns have been voted by the ratepayers ungrudgingly.

In no country have so many experiments been made, in no country have so many failures been recorded as in England. Patented processes have from time to time been received with favor, but in most cases, only to be discarded within a few years for simpler or less expensive methods.

Land treatment has been recognized for many years as the most economical method of disposing of sewage and as giving the best results.

There is probably to-day a larger area of land devoted to Broad Irrigation in England than at any other period, and the acreage is constantly increasing. Nottingham with a population of 250,000, has a sewage farm with an area of 900 acres, about 200 acres additional are now being prepared for use, and 700 acres adjoining have been purchased for future requirements. At Leicester, population 217,000, the sewage is raised 170 feet to a sewage farm of 1,700 acres ; and at Birmingham there is a sewage farm of 2,800 acres.

In most places, the cost of operating the sewage farms, nearly equals the revenue derived therefrom, leaving the interest of the cost of works to be borne by taxation.

So satisfactory has been land treatment, and so unsatisfactory have been all other processes and methods, that to-day the Local Government Board (a Standing Committee of the Houses of Parliament) will not sanction a loan for sewerage purposes, except with the provision that a certain area of land is provided,