consequently more poisonous than that of most sewers. These vaults or pits are, at best, ventilated only by means of one small air shaft leading to the top of the privy, and when the lids are lifted from the seats within, the foul gases are actually forced up into the privy by the colder air rushing down this ventilating shaft, and are necessarily freely inhaled by those occupying the closet, and cannot but prove detrimental to health.

EMANATIONS FROM FECAL MATTERS ON THE GROUND and exposed freely to the air are rapidly diluted and disseminated, and they are hence quickly rendered less noxious and hurtful than sewage effluvia; and probably, as Parkes says, in proportion to the degree of dilution. When there are accumulations of fecal matter in small, close backyards, and such like places, the same effects are produced as by sewer air. When fecal matters are used for manure, and are speadily mixed with earth, the effluvia given off are soon deodorized and absorbed by the earth, and bad effects are seldom produced. Instances are on record, however, in which disease appeared to have been produced by manure spread upon fields.

The unknown SPECIFIC CONTAGIUMS of certain contagious diseases are evidently sometimes present in the air of sewers and privy vaults; especially the contagiums of typhoid fever and cholera. The specific poison of yellow fever, too, it appears, may be present; and it seems possible that those of other diseases, such as scarlet fever, diphtheria, and small-pox, may also exist in such air.

The above gases from decomposing excrement will, according to Oesterlen and Hennezel, PASS THROUGH STONE WALLS; and they will undoubtedly corrode and PERFORATE ZINC AND LEAD PIPES, in course of time. It has been found that zinc rhones on the eaves of buildings have been corroded completely through in a couple of years by the action of the air from sewers and soil pipes passing up the ventilating tube and striking on the under part of them. Though lead is probably less readily acted upon than zinc, it is with it only a question of time. Lead traps and pipes from water closets, sinks, baths, &c., are all subject to the action of such gases, but as the traps are a bar to the passage of the gases, the pipes near them are more exposed to corroding action, and are therefore most likely to give out first, and permit gases to escape through them. Hence the importance of thorough ventilation and the free dilution of these gases in soil pipes.