

more nor less than one great cesspool. And this, together with the apathy of a great many of the householders, and the difficulty of getting good drainage, and the heavy expenses and disgusting mode of getting night soil removed, is only what might be expected. Nothing but a comprehensive act, rigidly carried out, can remove the difficulty.

I may here state, that it will not be necessary to wait until the street sewers are built, to commence this improvement. Such cesspools may be built as soon as the spring opens. The present cesspools can be cleaned out, and such as I have described put into their places, the drain pipe put in and plugged with wood, and by the use of ashes can be kept perfectly inodorous, and the contents removed with little difficulty. Also the present gratings may be removed, and such as I have suggested put into their places, with but little more expense than if put in at the time the sewer was built.

I must here remark, that covering the present gratings, or making the above substitutions in their places, can only be done to a limited extent, until after other ventilation is provided for: the gases constantly engendering in the sewers will find vent somewhere, and if repressed on the streets, will be driven into the houses, even although the house drains be trapped, which but few are.

Such sewers as the Albermarle, Grafton and Argyle street sewers could be built and emptied into the present Jacob street sewer, and many other portions of the city could be dealt with in the same way. By such a mode of procedure all, or nearly all, of the more densely populated portions of the city could be put into a fair sanitary condition in the course of the summer.

In anticipation of a thorough cleansing of the cesspools in the spring, I have asked Alderman Chipman, who kindly consented, to ascertain for me, through his agents in London, the expense of a pump used there for pumping the contents of cesspools into the sewers or tanks on wheels, by which means they can be emptied at a largely reduced cost, and with but little of the disagreeable escape of gases now made.

I think there can be but little done in the way of flushing the present sewers—those lying east and west, from their heavy grades, being as clean as can be made, while those lying north and south are completely filled up, in most cases, and built square, of stone, and rough: so that probably it will be found impossible to clean them in any other way than to open them and cart the deposit away; and if they could be cleaned by flushing, the deposit would lodge in many cases in Water street, where it would be more difficult to get rid of than in its present position. At the same time, there is no doubt in some cases flushing would be partially successful.

#### COST.

In making up an estimate of the cost, I have taken the present price of material, which is, however, much larger than known in any other country of which I have any knowledge, this being to some extent occasioned by the hitherto limited demand.

When it is known that a large portion of the brick used for building