NOTES AND COMMENTS.

the disposal of sewage and garbage, the pollution of water supplies, disinfection, quarantine and kindred matters occupied the attention of the members throughout the three days during which the society was in session.

Three papers were presented by Ottawa gentlemen. The first was by Thos. Macfarlane. F.R.S.C., Chief Analyst of the Inland Revenue Dept., "Upon the disposal of refuse in some European cities." This was an exhaustive account of how sewage is disposed of in many cities and towns of Great Britain and the Continent, and comprises the carefully recorded observations made by the author in person on a recent tour made purposely for that object. It is a most valuable paper for reference, since it contains in concise form useful information not hitherto collated. Mr. Macfarlane emphasized the use of "moss litter" as an absorbent and deodorizer and stated that the experience of all who had tried it for this purpose showed it to be entirely satisfactory.

"The Interpretation of the Chlorine number in Well Waters" was the title of . paper read by Mr. A. McGill, B.Sc. The author claimed ...at most valuable data would be obtained if the chlorine content of the ground waters throughout a district were determined and tabulated according to locality. Such results would materially assist in the diagnosis of rural well waters.

A paper on a closely allied subject was given by Mr. Frank T. Shutt, M.A., Chemist of the Dominion Experimental Farms. It was entitled "The Farm Well." Since the institution of the Experimental Farms the useful work of examining well waters for farmers has been done, free of charge to the agricultural public, and the writer stated that in this way the water from more than 1,000 wells had been analysed. The results, as regards the general quality of the waters were far from satisfactory, the chief cause of pollution arising evidently in the majority of cases from the proximity of the well to the barn yard or a similar source of contamination. It was pointed out that life was being jeopardized for the sake of convenience in too many farm homesteads. The paper concluded with a use-

1898]

North Contraction

į

Ì