

plaster than the wood-work. I have found freshly slacked lime a very useful agent for cleansing the foul places infested with vermin. Closing the rooms or cupboards tightly and slacking a quantity of lime in them has a very sweetening effect, and, where possible, a plentiful supply of lime wash should be used. Sulphur may be burnt, or any method suggested by experience and convenience can be adopted, providing the work is effectually done. About the easiest way to get rid of rats, after care has been taken to prevent their entrance, is to starve them out, leave no loose food or a crumb of anything they can feed upon within their reach, and they will not care to stay about the place. Fifth, I place dirty kitchen sinks, wash-tubs and water-closets; they are very liable, with but slight neglect, to be a prolific source of foul smells, especially when they are so constructed that the surrounding wood work becomes saturated with filthy moisture. For this reason wooden wash-tubs boxed in sinks, and similar arrangements, should be carefully avoided; slate, marble, tile, cement, stone, brick, are all substitutes for wood that can be utilized in most cases. Last, but not least, many houses are foul smelling because not kept clean, and these cases are about the most difficult for a sanitarian to take in hand, as it requires a good deal of nerve and moral courage to enable one to face the lady of the house, and tell her it is stinking because not kept clean. Yet dirty store-rooms, neglected pot-holes, unwashed wood-work,

walls covered with several layers of paper, uncleaned carpets, filthy refrigerators, and what the thrifty house-wife would sum up under the head of "dirt," is very frequently the cause of foul smelling and unhealthy dwellings. Houses are frequently pervaded with foul odors arising from external causes, that is, causes not existing within the four walls; privy pits, stables, dirty yards and lanes, untrapped yard or street gratings, rotten planking in yards or sidewalks, and similar causes exist, and are sometimes very difficult to remove or remedy, as they sometimes exist owing to the carelessness and apathy of the neighbors. The occupants of terraced houses are frequently troubled with foul smells having their origin in the adjoining houses, which make their way from house to house by means of cracks in walls, openings around beams, rat holes, and, in many cases, through the walls themselves. I have had many such cases to deal with. In conclusion I will give the following recipe, in which I have great faith. It was written by a physician in answer to a patient's request for a good disinfectant to use during the warm weather:—

"R—Brush, 1; pail, 1; shovel, 1; wheelbarrow, 1; broom, 1; cloth, 1; soap, *ad lib.* *agua pura quantum suf.* (plenty clean water), add a sufficient quantity of brains and muscle to cause the whole to be vigorously worked, and use in large quantities until complete relief is afforded."

J. W. H.

