

of street sewers and thus absorb the most dangerous of those foul emanations which meet us at every turn of our sidewalks and are frequently the source of disease.

The evils of the present sewage system are apparent in our public schools, where young children have no protection from the severe climate, in our hospitals, asylums and jails, and in many of our factories and tenement blocks, where the dry system of removal would be of immediate public benefit; and the sprinkled charcoal a much needed deodorant. (Any one who has occasion to visit the Court House or City Hall must be conscious of the pestiferous atmosphere, and that the causes are of the most disgusting character.)

WATER SEWAGE SYSTEM.

With respect to the system of removal by water, it is generally conceded by sanitary engineers and medical authorities that the difficulties of extending this to cottage houses or tenements are *insuperable*, and that the connection of even good water closets with the common sewer is dangerous and uncertain to the occupiers of houses, and that the separate system, dividing the closet refuse from the roof water, slops and sink washings, is a most desirable improvement on the present imperfect sewage system.

As to the final disposal of such water sewage, however, Sanitarians have not yet exhibited the same unanimity as they have on, the system of dry removal and frequent removal, wherever practicable.

THE CREMATORY.

A large fire-brick furnace, called the "Beehive Destructor," has, I see, been invented by Mr. Stafford, Borough Engineer of Burnley, in Lancashire, which is of great power, destroying twenty to twenty-four tons per day of garbage and offal of every description. Such a furnace would be invaluable for the cremation of the scavenging and offal material, but for nightsoil alone I should prefer the *gas works principle of construction and the storage of the gas in a holder*, and I believe the profit on the products would fully pay the extra expense of condensation.

It would be of the greatest benefit to the city to have one of each such furnaces constructed and thus to cremate all garbage and offensive materials, both animal and vegetable.

Mr. Easie, C.E., in a report to the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, meeting at Dublin last year, says:—

"The system of destruction of house refuse by burning was reported upon by Dr. Sanders in 1851. It has been more or less fully adopted by the City Commissioners of Sewers, by Leeds, Bradford, Warrington, Manchester, etc., etc. In this process a 'Destructor' burns everything combustible in house and trade refuse, and a second apparatus called the 'Carbonizer,' converts the organic matter, animal and vegetable, into charcoal. * * * After due investigation, I think it will be taken for granted that the burning of refuse is the most satisfactory system extant."

RECOMMENDATION.

On the above grounds I have strongly recommended the system of "cremation," "carbonization" and "dry pail removal" to the Council of the City of Montreal.

DISCUSSION.

The reading of the paper was followed by a rather warm and interesting discussion on the comparative merits of the dry earth and water carriage systems, the manner in which the Board of Health performs its duties, the propagation of disease by night-soil and the best mode of the disposal of sewage, in which Mr. Boxer, Alderman Mooney, the Rev. Robt. Campbell, Dr. LaRocque, Mr. Radford, Col. Crawford, Mr. Clendinneng and Dr. Wanless took part. All the speakers looked upon the question as one of great importance and the majority of them were of opinion that to burn the nightsoil was the most effective mode of disposing of it. An idea of the condition of the city may be obtained from a statement made by Dr. LaRocque, which was that there are ten thousand cess-pits in the city, only fifteen hundred of which are emptied in the course of a year. It was said that the law which does not permit the Board of Health to compel the householder to empty a pit, no matter how large or how deep it may be, until it is filled to within a foot of the surface, prevents that body from applying a remedy to this dreadful state of things. Mr. Radford, Sanitary Inspector, said that the people of Montreal were ignorant and asleep with regard to all matters relating to the public health. All agreed that the sanitary condition of the city is bad and needs to be improved without delay. If the cholera visits the city in the spring, and it remains in its present condition, the general opinion was that the worst effects would fol-