

product for fertilization, and deposit it where it could administer its full benefits to the earth. Barren portions of our seacoast could, by these modifications of the separate system, be made the most fertile and beautiful of all tracts of vegetation.

To the engineer, when once a system were decided on and declared, these modes of transit and many improvements on them would occur. With the engineers it is not our special province to interfere. They exist to carry out what had been determined on, and when they know what the people want they will do what is wanted as surely as they will lay down, after the country had said they must, a new railway or a telegraph. We have but to declare the principle, and get it fixed, that every town in England must be cleansed of its organic excreta out and out, day by day, as certainly as it is supplied with the food that is brought into it, and the thing will be done.

Toward such perfection any powerful society, steadily and resolutely devoting itself, would soon be backed up by the common sense of people who require but a competent instructing authority in order to understand the subject accurately. The utter failure of the combined system as a permanent solution of the drainage difficulty, and as a mere transition from the cesspool to the method of removal, day by day, combined with immediate and fruitful utilization, is of itself becoming apparent with such swift conviction that it will come, whether assisted or not by our will and deed. But it were wise to hasten it, and it is one of those pressing practical things which we could hasten effectively if, irrespective of all interests but true ones, we laid ourselves out for the duty.

At the instance of Mr. Edwin Chadwick, whose name as a sanitarian is a name of the century, we did some time ago commence an inquiry here bearing upon the vital point now under consideration. We opened—or, more correctly speaking, reopened—the sewage question, and we discerned all at once, although our inquiries were entirely confined to limited

areas of London, so much evil that we rather abruptly closed the evil up again as if we were frightened at it. It is all in vain; for sewage, like murder, will out, and we must once more proceed. What we did discover was, in truth, so serious that the wonder we labor under is, how London can be so healthy as it is. We found that London is still honey-combed with what are in fact, if not in name, cesspools, a fact we all practically recognize by the second-hand measures we take to meet the primary blunder.

From the window at which these remarks are written, I see that one of my neighbors, the owner of a large house in our square, has carried out of his house from the basement a three inch tube to above the level of the parapet, in order to deliver into the air any gases that may accumulate in the main drain of the residence.

It is not good for the air which I and many others have to live upon, that it should receive the foul air which rises from the decomposition of my neighbor's organic excreta; and if everybody's neighbors did it, it would be detected in some weathers, so that the process must be stopped as it was in a former day on a recommendation of the Royal College of Physicians. I do not, however, blame my neighbor for what he has done, because I have done it myself. It is a natural species of self-protection amongst those who know best how to protect themselves. My contention is, that the necessity for any such method is proof demonstrative of the rottenness of the primary system which causes the necessity, and which, keeping us foul beneath our houses, makes the air, at its best, foul also above them. My contention is that the decomposition from accumulations of sewage, which gives origin to the gases that are let out by thousands upon thousands of channels, by tubes from houses, by soil pipes within houses, by accidental openings and pores in all directions; by gullies in streets, by great outlets of sewage, ought never to have been generated at all, but