

APPENDIX C.

DETAILS OF THE DRY EARTH SYSTEM OF SEWERAGE
 (from the Rules for the Superintendence and Management of
 Gaols in the Lower Provinces of the Bengal Presidency, 1864.)

Conservancy.—Latrines and Urinals.

As a nuisance in a gaol may easily be avoided, its existence is an indication of inefficient administration. For successful conservancy administration it is not sufficient to give an order; there must be a perfectly organized plan, with rules for the guidance of each individual, and not only must every one have his own separate duty assigned him, but in case of neglect the responsibility must be fixed upon some one against whom the neglect or want of supervision rests. It is not only necessary to give an order, but also habitually to see that it is properly carried out; and as long as there is anything to offend the senses, the officer in charge of the gaol may rest satisfied that the system is only imperfectly carried out, and no excuse should be accepted in justification.

Drains of any description for sewage purposes within a gaol or its precincts are absolutely prohibited.

The dry earth conservancy system shall be adopted in all gaols in substitution of any other requiring the removal of liquid sewage.

The application of not less than two pounds of dry sifted earth to the recently voided faecal or urinary excreta of one person prevents decomposition, entirely suppresses fermentation and the escape of noxious and offensive gases, and admits of the excreta being preserved in a portable and innocuous condition.

The essential conditions for the success of dry earth conservancy are :—

A. Immediate application of earth to excreta.—Unless this be attended to, fermentation and the evolution of offensive products rapidly result. The subsequent application of a large quantity of earth only abates a nuisance whose prevention is enjoined. Urine should be voided into large vessels loosely filled with dry earth.

B. The use of dry sifted earth.—If damp earth be used success cannot be expected, and if unsifted earth be employed, an unnecessarily large quantity will be required, involving extra labour in supplying fresh and in removing the soiled earth. A quantity of earth from the gaol garden should be kept constantly spread out in the sun to be thoroughly dried, and during the rainy season special arrangements will have to be made for effecting this under shelter. Before the commencement of the rains, a stock of thoroughly dried and well-sifted earth should be stored in a building for use on