

The mortality of this city is remarkable if we compare our cemetery returns with that of other cities, and this mortality would be increased if it were not that many families and sick persons are away from the city during the hot weather. Coming more directly to the subject before us, two questions meet us, which are more or less intimately connected. The first concerns us chiefly as sanitarians. In what manner can the effete products of our people be removed so as to produce the best results, both physical and economical? The second concerns us indirectly, but, as affording a solution to the first, may be discussed with advantage. How can these effete products be manipulated so as to render them available for agricultural purposes? It may be said that the latter question is needless, but if they can be made marketable the expense of removal may be defrayed, and that which is an offence will enrich the soil and return to us as a benefit. There is nothing new in this, the Mosaic laws ordain it, and I believe we will ultimately adopt some mode by which this can be effected. Much money is expended for fertilizers, and this, the best, we do not take advantage of. To revert to the first question of how can these effete products be best removed? and we must include all offal and house refuse in this designation; much will depend upon the circumstances of our climate. The sooner such material is removed is a necessity recognised by all. Hitherto only two modes have been found to be practical, and are now general in their use.

1st. That by water into sewers. 2nd. The pit method.

In regard to the first, I am of opinion, that, allowing any solid material, whether excreta or offal, to find its way into our sewers, is one of the most injurious and expensive modes which can be adopted. It is not only detrimental to health, but from the accumulation by deposit of so much matter in our drains, more expense is incurred in opening streets and cleaning drains than would be required to empty every pit in the city, even if all refuse were thrown into such pits. It may be more comfortable to have a closet in the house, it is certainly the most convenient, but surely we can have convenience and comfort without risking health, by adopting a better sanitary procedure. To remove solid material by sewerage in the cleanest and quickest manner involves so many conditions that it is almost impossible to have it done effectually. In this city, from the inequality of the streets, sewers are often so placed as to afford but little fall. Take the sewer in Jurors Street for example, which is almost level, and is consequently

nearly filled up, the washings of the street also adding to the obstruction by carrying down debris and gravel. A good fall is a necessity with frequent flushings, or else there will be accumulation and decomposition followed by disease. It has been calculated to take 25 gallons of water per head daily to keep common sewers clean; such drains as the above would require more than double that amount. Arrangements for trapping or other more complicate apparatus are very often defective, and in the best are sure to get out of order after a time, so that there are but few houses in which the air is not contaminated by the effluvia from the closets. As for the dry method, as it is called, accumulating in pits and occasionally removing, no words are strong enough to condemn such abominations. To allow these places to exist in our midst is suicide, for they are converted during the summer into seething and bubbling masses of putrefaction. And yet they exist under the windows of a large portion of our population, and cause us to deplore a great increase in the infant mortality of our city during the summer months. Many such places might be mentioned. One large tenement building, three stories in height, surrounds a small court yard, having a series of closets occupying the most of it. On three sides the only doors and windows open on to this court. The whole building is occupied by about 25 families, who are obliged to inhale constantly the exhalations arising from the pits. From professional visits to the place I have found that, even in the depth of winter, an insufferable odor comes from them. To purify such places by disinfectants and deodorants is both expensive and inefficient, and the occasional cleaning out is abominable from the great stench, and is also expensive. Attempts have been made to convert such material into fertilizers by chemical means. Heretofore such attempts have been failures, owing to their expense and to the heterogenous masses of varying materials to be operated on. To fulfil all the requirements of a proper sanitary condition, demands a method different from those now in use, and there can be nothing more efficient than the daily removal of all excrement and house offal which should be thrown into the same receptacle. Boxes could be constructed on one plan with movable covers, so that as one box was removed it could be immediately replaced by an empty one. Some such plan is imperatively demanded in places like the one already mentioned, and our Corporation ought to be enlightened enough to adopt this simple method. If this plan was adopted no time would be given for decomposition, and our city would be all the better for it.