of manure for our farms is thrown away and wasted. By the dry earth system the whole might be saved, and utilised to such an extent that it shall be profitable, not only to the farmers who used it, but to the towns from whence it is procured.*

II.—THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DRY EARTH SYSTEM.

These are first, *the marvellous capability of dry and sifted earth, or of clayed subsoil, for deodorisation.* This is such, that two pounds weight of such earth, † or three half-pints, is amply sufficient for one use of a closet. And if with this quantity the excreta covered by it be intimately mixed, it may in a very short time be dried without offence by artificial heat. And the mass, when dried thus, or by natural heat, may be used again and again for the same pupose. I have tried it with success ten times.

The second principle is *in the immediate application of this deodorising power to the matter to be deodorised.* To meet this evil we must *take it in detail*, and we must *take it at once.* Little real good, if not much harm, will ever be done by traps and ventilators and gully-holes, and deodorising processes for vast volumes of sewage water. *The evil must be cut off at its source.* At this point it *can* be cut off, and converted into a vast benefit.

The third principle, which has only recently however been observed, and which so increases the feasibility of the introduction of this system into large towns, is this: if the deposits fall into a vault, 3 feet or 4 feet deep, the superincumbent weight of the repeated addition of two pounds of earth, and an occasional act of levelling with a rake or common scraper, are sufficient for the mixing. So that within six weeks from the deposits falling, the excreta and any vegetable matter disappear; and the mass looks and smells like fresh earth. And in that vault, without the omission of any offensive smell, it may continue three, four, or six months.

III.—THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DRY EARTH SYSTEM TO INDIVIDUAL CASES.

In the case of the ordinary privy, whether attached to a cottage or larger dwelling-house, if there be difficulty in removing it from its present site, let the present vault be emptied and cleansed, and filled

---

* The value of the manure produced annually in a City or Town is estimated at not less than £1 sterling per head for every inhabitant. The City of London, therefore, throws no less than £2,500,000 annually into the Thames, and is now expending £3,500,000 on works to throw it away more completely than before. (See Appendix D.)

† The best earth for the purpose is that containing the most organic matter. Experience in Canada has proved that black muck or swamp earth, when thoroughly dried and sifted, is admirably adapted for earth closets. Where it is difficult to obtain suitable earth in sufficient quantity, sifted ashes may be mixed with the earth, in the proportion of one of ashes to two of earth. [*Ed.*]