

to keep it for days in a decomposing state in a box or barrel in the yard or back lane. Except for the short season when there is a good deal of kitchen refuse and not much fuel burned, the best plan, repeatedly recommended in this JOURNAL, is to mix daily all the organic refuse of the kitchen as well as the ont closet excreta, with the coal ashes. The dry ashes constitute a good deodorant and prevent early decomposition, and the whole form a valuable manure.

SWALLOWING CAMELS.—It is well to find people exercised about the proper disposal of potatoe parings, cabbage leaves and the like, but it makes it a still greater marvel that they will rest content in the midst of thousands of old, old fashioned privy vaults, containing far more disgusting and dangerous matter—filth of the worst sort, kept decomposing and fermenting over and over again, for months and sometimes for years. Elsewhere in this number this disagreeable subject of privy vaults is referred to, and we wish we could hope there never would be necessity for referring to it again.

THE WORST OF ALL filth, by far, is the human excrement in the privy vaults. No matter how perfect may be the removal or destruction of all other waste matters—of the kitchen, of the stable, of the slaughter-house, or of *every other* place, so long as the excreta of the body human is kept near the premises, as it usually is, in holes in the ground or elsewhere, there is not, nor can there be, any such thing as cleanliness. Though every thing else be removed the worst is there still. This is a most disagreeable subject, and it is too bad that in a civilized age like this it is necessary to have to refer to it so often as has been done in this Journal. But of all unsanitary transgressions, of all vile relics of heathen or of savage life (if it is such), this almost universal practice of keeping such filth on the premises, in pits or other receptacles, is the vilest. Of all direct causes of zymotic or bacterial disease in cities and towns—

through contamination of air and water, this one of the ever present fermenting, seething human excrement is doubtless the most prolific. As a nidus, a soil, a food for the germs of cholera and typhoid fever especially, filth of this kind far surpasses in special adaptability any other. Language seems to fail to supply words sufficiently strong to condemn this unaccountable practice of keeping for months and years often, near the back door, the bodily excreta, which from its small bulk might be easily daily removed. When will men take a lesson from animals in this matter of their bodily waste, or follow the scriptural injunction given in the XXIII chapter, 12th, 13th, and 14th verses, of Deuteronomy.

CHOLERA PREVENTION.—At the meeting of the Association of Public Sanitary Inspectors, in August, inst., Mr. Chadwick, the President, pointed out how entirely the experience gained in this country during the epidemic of 1848-49 in reference to the mode of propagation of cholera had been verified by the outbreak at Toulon. If the Cholera did not come the labours of all the sanitary inspectors during the last few weeks would not by any means be thrown away. The practice of quarantine he denounced as useless and mischievous; effectual cleansing of persons and places being the only reliable preventive measures. In a leading London Medical exchange we find, "Sanitary cordons on land are a delusion and a snare, and quarantine in narrow seas is little better. The poison will be *smuggled* in;—no word so well expresses the mode of its introduction and the practical impossibility of excluding it." The real and only defence against cholera will be found in measures for the speedy and complete removal of excreta from the proximity of the houses, either by well made sewers or some form of pail system, and the supply of water from irreproachable sources." The recent report of the Local Government Board to Sir Charles Dilke once more emphasises the fact that "cholera derives all its epidemic destructiveness from filth, and especially from