

## Garbage Destroyers.

A refuse destructor plant on a large scale as used in London is described in the Journal of the American Medical Association. In one of the parochial districts of London, St. Pancras, the problem of disposing of municipal refuse at the lowest cost is being solved. And more than that, this refuse is made of practical value in connection with the parochial electric lighting works. The city refuse, or "dust," to use the English word, is consumed in specially constructed furnaces, and the heat thus generated used to produce power to run the electric plant.

These new buildings cover an area of two acres and a half, facing King's Road, and the most noticeable feature of the plant is the huge chimney that rises to a height of 231 feet, and that costs over \$15,000 to erect. The total cost of the plant has been \$500,000.

The "dust" is collected throughout the district by carts and carried to a rear entrance, weighed and tipped into enormous tanks on each side of the main shed. To these tanks are attached hoppers, which convey the refuse to furnaces of new design, and considered to be of the best type now existing.

A novel feature of the whole scheme is its general automatic working, which requires the least possible outlay of manual labor. For instance, the furnace is fitted with an ingenious appliance of alternating bars, moving up and down with an eccentric forward motion, carrying the refuse towards the centre of the fire.

There are eighteen furnaces, capable of consuming 1,260 tons of dust per week. There is but a small amount of "clinkers" left behind, and this is withdrawn every six hours. This can be used to form an exceptionally tenacious mortar, and its sale (together with certain reduced expenses) will yield a probable gain to the parish of \$25,000 per annum.

The fiery gases from the burning material pass through long flues to the engine room of the electric works, pass around and in front of the boilers into an "economizer" and so into the chimney. The destructors are said to produce 12,000 degrees of heat, and supply from 300 to 400 horse-power to the boilers. Efficiency with economy is proved possible in this scheme. For instance, the water needed is procured by saving the waste steam, passing it through a condenser and a water softening apparatus, pumping it to the top of the building to a cooler, whence it returns to a tank of 115,000 gallons capacity.

There will be a saving in cartage of refuse, a saving in coal at the electric station, and a saving to the taxpayers who will have cheaper and better street lighting, and a valuable asset.

The possibilities of the use of city refuse as fuel may be followed by as interesting results as was the discovery of the value of the despised coal-tar, and also of refuse petroleum.

## Reform at Home.

Good roads, like charity, should begin at home. People everywhere are beginning to realize that good roads have a cash value. Properly constructed highways not only add immeasurably to the pleasure of the people, but to their profit as well.

The farmers who have for many years been organizing for the purpose of securing better and cheaper railroad transportation for their marketable products, are now becoming awake to the fact that a great reform is needed right at home. An unnecessary and very expensive evil has been permitted to exist at their very doors. They have been wasting much valuable time and horse-flesh in getting products to market. They have learned that it costs more to haul a load to the station a few miles away than it does to have it transported from the station to the far away seaboard.

This along the line of profit. In the way of pleasure they have suffered an immeasurable loss. Because of poor roads they have been more or less isolated from the world and deprived of the priceless advantages that come from association. The farmers' sons, unable to readily get to and from the villages, have gone to the villages and cities to remain. So have many of the daughters. The lack of society has been a blight upon rural life, robbing it of the flower of its youth. The same would be true of cities to a great degree if there were no good means of getting about.

The farmers are going to do better, and the merchants in all the country towns will, if they are at all wise, gladly do their share toward making good roads.

The good roads town catches the trade.

A good road is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. And, besides, it *pays*.—*Good Roads*.

There is a building regulation in force in Washington, says the National Building Register, requiring that a certain portion of every lot shall be kept free from buildings for the purpose of light and ventilation. This regulation has been overlooked by some of the architects in making plans for buildings, but when their attention is called to it they readily see the wisdom of it. In many other cities similar regulations exist and in some cities as much as 70 per cent. of building lots is reserved for this very necessary purpose.

The full text of the regulation in force in this city is as follows: "To secure proper ventilation and light, no dwelling shall be erected within ten feet of the rear of any lot, except where the rear abuts upon a public alley, or where there is reserved a side lot of at least 250 square feet area, to be determined in each case by the inspector of buildings."

Fifty-five towns in England destroy their garbage by cremation.

## Voluminous.

A Philadelphia lawyer said a very bright thing the other day. He was seated with a group of friends, and they were discussing in a desultory way the leading topics of the day. One of the parties present, Mr. —, persisted in monopolizing more than his share of the conversation, and his views did not at all accord with those of the lawyer. As the men separated one of them said to the lawyer:

"That—knows a good deal, doesn't he?"

"Yes," replied the lawyer; "he knows entirely too much for one man; he ought to be incorporated."—*Green bag*.

A countryman went to a lawyer, laid before him a case in dispute, and then asked him if he would undertake to win the suit.

Lawyer—Most certainly I will undertake the case. We are sure to win.

Peasant—So you really think it is a good case?

Lawyer—Undoubtedly. I am prepared to guarantee you will get a verdict in your favor.

Peasant—Well, then, sir, I don't think I'll go to law this time, for, you see, I have just given you my opponent's case and not my own.—*Fliegende Blaetter*.

"They've raked in a pretty rough-looking lot this morning, haven't they?" observed the stranger who had dropped in at the police station. "You are looking at the wrong gang," said the reporter to whom he had spoken. "Those are not the prisoners, they are the lawyers."—*Pearson's Weekly*.

Physician—"Your husband must stop all work, all thought, everything."

Wife—"He would never consent to absolute idleness."

Physician—"Then we must fool him into imagining he is busy. I'll get him appointed a member of the Board of Health."

Every person is absolutely bound so to conduct himself, and so to exercise what are regarded as his natural or personal rights, as not to interfere unnecessarily or unreasonably with other persons in the exercise of rights common to all citizens. Every breach of this obligation constitutes a nuisance.—*Parker & Worthington, Public Health and Safety, page 199*.

Scene—A Scottish jail. Prisoner has donned the prison garb, which turns out a very bad fit. Jailer—"You had better take that suit off, and I'll give you one that will fit you better." Prisoner—"Oh, it'll dae fine! I daur say I'll no be guan very far frae the door here!"

The subject of water filtration is receiving much attention in Philadelphia.