

tank affords the best means of disposal. If the tank must be so far from the house that the sewage will cool before reaching the tank there is danger that the fats, soap and other kitchen and wash room drainage will solidify in the pipes and form a tough coating which will collect the other matter.

For purifying the drainings from kitchens several forms of grease traps are used. These cause the fatty matter to be separated by cooling, the grease being retained floating on the water in the trap. They are usually placed below the sinks and intercept not only the grease but all the heavy substance which enter them. In order that the layer of fat on the top of the water may not be agitated too greatly, the drain from the sink should enter from the side and not at the top.

These grease traps must be cleaned from time to time while if everything that enters the house drain can be delivered at the septic tank this difficulty is overcome. Unless sand and similar solids reach the tank it is unnecessary to clean it as it is automatic. If it were opened after being a year in use there would be a thick scum on the top and a heavy deposit at the bottom, but the removal of these would stop the working of the tiny army until a new army could be mustered.

One important feature of such a system yet remains to be dealt with. The effluent must be disposed of. The tank clarifies the liquid, but does not purify it. While a large percentage of the impurities are removed the effluent still continues objectionable matter in solution. It will not be offensive, however, either to the eye or nostril. It may be flowed over the land in garden or orchard or applied to the soil through tiles laid under the surface.

For the latter more or less space will be required according as the ground is absorptive or non-absorptive. Agricultural drain tiles should be laid at a depth of about one foot. The tiles should be two-inch made in one foot lengths. The shallow trenches for these tiles should be carefully graded and first laid with "gutter tiles" forming a channel in which to lay the round tiles. They should be laid with one-quarter inch spaces between their ends and these open joints covered with "caps" or curved plates of earthenware to exclude earth. The curve of the gutters and of the caps must be greater than that of the outside of the tiles so that the joints are free to discharge the liquid for nearly the whole circumference. It is advisable to lay the tiles in broken stone or coarse gravel to a little above the caps. The tiles will then empty before it is possible for the discharge to freeze. The broken stone or gravel will also preserve the tile from injury by the heaving action of the frost.

Where the effluent must be discharged on or into the land a meter should be installed on the water supply pipe in order to discourage the unnecessary use of water.

While it must not be understood that the system outlined will be a panacea for all the evils incident to country house drainage, yet in the opinion of the writer it will be a decided improvement on prevailing methods without entailing prohibitive expense.

### Contrasts

"The Town Council of Colesberg, South Africa, at a meeting held lately, unanimously resolved, owing to the depression of the times and other matters, to abandon the levying of the rate (tax) for the year. \*\*\*

"The municipal valuation of property at Johannesburg is returned at £36,562,646 (\$182,813,230), an increase of £96,000 (\$480,000) over last year. Lucky municipality!"—*South African Commerce*.

### Woman's Work in Civic Affairs

Miss Mira Lloyd Dock, of Fayetteville, Pa.

(Read before the American Civic Association)

In many places intelligent and charming women are withholding themselves from public work for various reasons. Some say, "My church duties absorb all of my time," and others, "My home duties require every hour." Of course, where there are little children the mother ought not to be expected to have any share in public work.

But, then, there are many women who have plenty of time and leisure. In the old days, in sinful and evil times, the movement was toward the cloister, with its seclusion, peace, and serenity. Then it was to get away from trouble, but in our modern life we have learned that we must take the spirit of the cloister out into the world, and if we like serenity, pleasure, and beautiful things — parks, trees, and gardens — we must take them with us.

In other words, we must carry them out into the highways and byways — suggest them, work for them and help to provide them.

Among my duties for several years has been close attention to a tuberculosis camp. In Pennsylvania, the present yearly appropriation for the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis is upward of \$500,000. Just think what half a million dollars would have done in towns where the State's patients lived if they had had parks.

Every playground, every outdoor improvement in a town, keeps down the disease and limits the loss of strength which results from overcrowding. Those persons who have commodious homes, with beautiful grounds surrounding, do not need recreation away from home, but those men, women and children who are shut in need a place for recreation where they may breathe the pure air, revel in the sunlight and get a glimpse of the blue sky overhead. So, perhaps, every ten dollars expended for a park will save a hundred dollars which would be required later on in the fight against tuberculosis.

Many women think that civic work keeps them too much away from the home. It has been the curious experience in Pennsylvania that our civic work has taken us right back into our homes. Civic workers in Pennsylvania began with little efforts to clean the streets. For example, in Harrisburg one man was engaged to clean and keep clean one block every day and the success of this small effort led to the adoption of the system by the municipality. Attention of the men's association was directed to the subject of improvement work and the men now see that it is done properly.

In Carlisle, a hundred and twenty-five artistic street signs were purchased and posted from the money literally coined out of the dust of the streets. In almost every county can be found a concrete instance of improvement work that has been done as a direct result of women's efforts.

We began in Pennsylvania to clean the streets and then to plant trees, and every year, too, we try to help the American Civic Association in the campaign to preserve the beauty of Niagara Falls. We have folks interested in clean streets, in beautifying the town, in establishing parks; we have educational leaflets for distribution. Back of it all is this great effort to train women how to make a home, and in the last year we have succeeded in having household economics introduced in State College. We think it important for every one that an opportunity be given for good housekeeping, indoors and outdoors.