

vegetation,—grass, flowers, shrubs and trees. The more kitchen refuse is burned in the ranges or cooking stoves the more economical it will be, of course, for the municipality to cart away the garbage, but it is not easy to induce people, servants or others, to do this. In course of time this method of kitchen cremation may become common, if the people can be educated up to it. If every town and village as well as city would select some convenient spot of lowground where abundance of good earth could be easily obtained, and have all

waste stuffs carefully gathered from streets, lanes and back yards, at regular intervals, the oftener the better, and covered in the earth as indicated, it would cost the municipality but very little and would make a vast improvement in the healthfulness and appearance of the places. On another page reference is made to the disposal of "night soil." But when earth closets take the place of privies, as it is to be greatly hoped will soon be the case everywhere, all waste can be deposited in one place.

---

#### A PAGE FOR POLITICAL ECONOMISTS.

DR ALFRED CARPENTER, at a late meeting of the Association of Public Sanitary Inspection, at Liverpool, gave some figures showing the enormity of the loss to Great Britain from the present wasteful method of disposal of excremental matters. It is a subject which Canadian legislators would do well to consider in a more practical way, for the good of the Dominion. We commend Dr. Carpenter's remarks to all who are interested in the future welfare of our country, and give below a synopsis of this important part of his address.

He first drew attention to a very important sanitary ordinance found in Holy Writ, on the ultimate disposal of human excreta; the earliest lessons in hygiene being found in the laws instituted by Moses, the Hebrew law-giver. It was clearly stated that those who disobeyed those laws should be overthrown by the "armies of the Living God." Those threats are frequently repeated by the Prophets. We are clearly told that those armies would not be regiments of human beings, but the palmer-worm, the canker-worm, the blight, and the mildew.

The customs of the Anglo Saxons on this point are not certainly known to us, said Dr. Carpenter, but Mr. Seebohn's book upon old English tenures gives us some insight into the plans of our Celtic forefathers, from which it may be gathered that excreta were utilized outside the homestead;

but ever since Norman William and his feudal lords erected their castles about the country and placed impediments in the way of exit from them, excreta were left at first in the open fossæ which surrounded the habitation, for removal by other creatures or to be washed away by the rain, and then, as such depots were inconvenient arrangements, holes were dug in the ground in which the products were hidden away under the mistaken expectation that they would be lost to memory as well as to sight. And so for 800 years the land has been more or less deprived of its principal fertilizing agent.

Now just multiply the value to the excreta of a single person as equal to 5s. by the population of the country, and then by 800, which is the very lowest estimate, and you may have some idea of the enormous amount of wealth that has been lost. If I take the average population at 6,000,000, it would have produced simply as a matter of money value sixteen thousand millions of pounds sterling. But there are two other sides of the question besides the mere loss of wealth. The very utilization itself would have necessitated more employment in field labor, and the increased fertility of our land would have kept our agriculturist in the country instead of filling the back streets of our towns with idle hands. Every day's labor would have brought its value to the nation in greater vegetable production, with its sequence of more meat, milk, and