

### Amsterdam and the Disposal of Rubbish.

Amsterdam consular reports state that hitherto rubbish collected by street cleaners in that town has been assorted—paper, rags, metals, and glass have been sold to dealers therein, and the residue as manure. The city authorities are now, however, considering converting the street rubbish as a mass into combustible briquettes for heating boilers. They have found that at Southwark, and at St. Ouen, France, street rubbish is transformed into a marketable product. At Southwark all the refuse is crushed to a powder, which is sold as a manure. At St. Ouen the powder thus made, with the addition of combustible substances, is formed into a cheap fuel. The Amsterdam authorities experimented at that place, combining powder made there with coal tar from the Amsterdam gasworks, and pressing the substance into briquettes. The experiment was successful, and disposed the Amsterdam authorities towards establishing a plant for producing briquettes from street rubbish. The quantity of material which can be worked in this city is about 140,000 tons a year. It is estimated that an establishment to work this will cost about \$200,000; that the annual expense thereof will be about \$98,000; that the product will be about 85,000 tons. It is believed that the briquettes can be sold at a profit of over \$20,000 a year. At present the street refuse of Amsterdam is disposed of at a loss of \$18,000 a year. Besides the anticipated financial profit, it is reasoned that the danger in times of epidemic will be much reduced by the transformation of street refuse, which amounts to destruction.

### Dresden and the Barbers.

A Consular report on the subject of municipal inspection states that in Dresden last year's inspection of barbers and hairdressers included 39 hairdressers and 549 barbers' shops. This inspection took place by authority of the city council, and was carried out by the police, the regulation having been introduced to limit the

spread in infectious diseases through these channels. In 35 cases it was necessary to report serious defects. There were five cases of insufficient cleanliness of the rooms, six cases of insufficient cleanliness of the instruments, three cases of sickness and insufficient cleanliness of the staff, three cases of violation of the regulations as to the serving of customers, seven cases in which the sign was wanting or insufficient, seven cases of employment of boys without a proper timebook or with insufficient booking, three cases of insufficient sleeping room for the assistants, and in one case insufficient room in the shop. A number of unimportant defects also were discovered, but on notice being drawn to them they were at once removed.

### Sanitary Hotels in France.

The first attempt made by the Touring Club of France in health directions, as recently reported, was to insist on the sanitary reform of the hotels that tourists were likely to frequent. The paper in a Touring Club hotel is stripped off the walls and washable paint or distemper is employed instead. The floors are wood blocks polished with beeswax or are laid with tiles. A small rug or two that can be lifted away and shaken alone is allowed on the floor. The numerous culture grounds for infective material provided by the old-fashioned manner of furnishing hotel rooms are thus done away with. Plenty of light and every facility for cleaning are provided and in some cases now the angles between the walls and the floor and ceiling are being rounded off, so that these havens of dust will soon exist no more.

The members of the Touring Club are provided with regular forms, so that they can send complaints to the central office if any hotel fails to keep the rules laid down. These rules relate not only to sanitation, but also to the charges. After thus seeking to improve the hotels, the Touring Club exercises its great influence to maintain the roads by which all the beautiful parts of the country can be reached.