

It is a matter of common prudence to maintain the body in health by removing and disposing of the dangerous matters given off by the human body in an expeditious and safe way.

All classes and politics are alike anxious to have this question of an efficient sewerage solved.

While on a visit last year to Europe we had occasion to examine professionally the celebrated system of sewerage known as the Liernur pneumatic system, the invention of an eminent sanitary engineer of Holland (Capt. Liernur). It stood the test of a full and careful examination, and fully confirmed the high reports which we had heard of it. We shall state in this paper the leading features of the system, and show how thoroughly it removes all the great evils of the water carriage system, which is the one in use in Montreal. The article will be limited to a general description of the system and its results, omitting many professional and technical details which we have collected.

This system of sewerage has been in actual operation five or six years in several large continental cities. Its success is not open to doubt; it is a fact.

The common or water carriage system may be briefly described as follows: The excremental matters, such as contents of privies, chamber and kitchen slops, scraps, &c., are hurried into common sewers, diluted with an enormous volume of water, and floated to the nearest river, lake or sea.

The pneumatic system of sewerage is governed by the fundamental principle that a system of town drainage should aim not only to remove filth and rain waters, but to keep soil, air and sub-soil water in a pure state. A moment's consideration shows how important it is to keep the soil of a city pure when we remember that every fall of rain, as it soaks down, makes the soil act as an exhaler, squeezing into the air the poisonous germs which have collected, so that a shower of rain, instead of being the natural provision for purifying the air, is converted into a disseminator of disease in its most insidious forms.