

DISPOSAL OF EXCRETA.—Apropos to the article in this number, and in that of August, of this JOURNAL, on the disposal of excreta, we find from the report of the meeting, in July last, of the Michigan State Board of Health, (kindly sent to us by the Secretary, Dr. H. B. Baker,) that Dr. Hitchcock, President of the Board, presented an important paper on the "Disposal of Human Excreta." He believed the dry-earth system would eventually supersede vaults and water-closets. "It is the most sanitary, rational, and economical method." He says, "All dead matter when buried in the earth for a time seems capable of a resurrection and a new life, and that the really important and comprehensive question in the disposal of excreta, is, how shall it the soonest and in the safest manner be commingled with the earth. Good privies are signs of higher civilization than fine palaces and grand monuments." Cases illustrating the dangers of bad locations of them were given, especially their proximity to wells, and cases cited where typhoid fever had arisen from this cause. The paper was ordered to be published in the report for the present year.

The value of different absorbents, such as lime, ashes, earth, etc., was discussed. Dry earth, not sand, was considered best for all practical purposes.

At a late meeting of an "Association of Sanitary Inspectors," at Bothwell, Eng., the following resolution was adopted:—

"That this Association, after very carefully considering the different systems of sewage disposal, is of opinion that it is desirable to represent to the delegates of the combined area, the necessity of their determining on adopting some dry portable system, such as that of the Goux Company, under the entire superintendence of the inspector of nuisances, as the simplest system of disposing of village sewage."

The President of the Association stated that he had lately visited Halifax and Aldershot, where he had seen the Goux system in full operation, and had come to the conclusion that it was the best he had yet examined and tested, both for towns and villages. Dr. Wilson* gives the following description of the Goux system:

* Handbook of Hygiene, by George Wilson, M.A., M.D.