

In Leyden, that quarter where the system is applied was formerly known for the prevalence of enteric fever and typhus. It has been observed that these maladies have nearly ceased since the introduction of the Liernur System. Its sanitary benefits may also be remarked by examining the sanitary evils which it will prevent, and with this object we now draw attention to the history and results of the Water-carriage System.

Previous to 1847, water-closets were little known in London, and in English towns generally; and not very long before this date it was illegal to pass fecal matter into a stream or river.

The excreta of the whole population were put into cesspools, which were brick pits or wells, the bricks being laid with open joints, without mortar or cement; the intention was to facilitate the escape of the liquids into the soil. The cesspools were directly underneath the privy seats.

These cesspools required to be emptied at intervals. This was gradually changed into our present water-closet system.

In 1847, an Act was passed compelling the houses in London to discharge the excreta directly into the sewers. Other towns copied London, and this led to the general introduction of this system.

It is considered by many high medical and sanitary authorities that the Water-carriage System is the cause of extensive infection, and of a great increase in the death rate of Great Britain and America.

The Report to the Massachusetts State Board of Health for 1875—a large 8vo. volume, and an exhaustive work—contains reports from a very large number of medical authorities and commissions upon epidemics and diseases, and nearly all of them ascribe the evil to sewer gas. In case after case, mention is made of the sewer gas playing over the marble wash-basins and in the baths, finding entrance through the overflow apertures and the discharge pipes which are used in the best houses where these luxuries are used. It also states that the gas is extremely light, and floats its way into the houses on the highest grounds, and into the warmest rooms: and, moreover, much of the most deleterious gas is without odor. Consider the baleful effect of this