

of the refuse of cities, is rapidly falling into disrepute. The most recent attack upon it was made before the British Medical Association, by Dr. Andrew Fergus, a very eminent physician of Glasgow. He says, in effect, that the system is a failure, based upon an error in reference to the purifying properties of water. In respect of excretal matter, water has no power to purify it, or prevent its becoming a nuisance; it merely shunts it—takes it “from my door to deposit it somewhere else.” The system is destined to come to grief, not only because it is unsalutary, but because it is costly and wasteful.

VALUE OF ISOLATION IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Dr. Edward Seaton, Medical officer of Health for Nottingham, has issued his annual summary on the sanitary condition of the district for the year 1879. The birth-rate for the twelve months has been 35·8 per 1000 of the population, which is equal to the average of past years. The mortality under five years of age was 41·3 per cent. of the total number of deaths, and this high rate is partly accounted for by the prevalence of measles and whooping-cough in the district, as well as of scarlet fever. The excellence of the results attained by the early isolation of cases of infectious diseases, combined with efficient disinfection, is shown in the fact that only in one instance out of seventy-nine did a second case occur, and this was under circumstances which made it extremely probable that the infection was taken from some other source.

EXAMINATIONS AND CERTIFICATES IN SANITARY SCIENCE.—Michigan is, we believe, the only place on this continent in which it is proposed to give certificates of having passed an examination in sanitary science, as in England. The Michigan State Board of Health announces that on July 14, the day after the next meeting of the board, it will, if candidates apply, examine them in sanitary science, giving a certificate of merit to those who pass a satisfactory examination. An outline of the plan of these examinations will appear in the forthcoming report for 1879.

IMPURE MILK AND INFANT MORTALITY.—In the *St. Louis Courier of Medicine*, Dr. P. V. Schenck writes as follows:—“From the statistics which I prepared as Health Officer, in 1874-5, it is clearly shown that in cities where swill milk is sold and in-town dairies allowed, the infant mortality is by far the greatest. The infant mor-