

Now as regards *sewage farming* as a means of disposing of sewage, Dr. Alfred Carpenter, of Croydon, has a theory that all vegetation, especially rye-grass, has the power of assimilating organic matter through the spongiolles of the roots. As far as rye-grass is concerned, according to an extract from the *Popular Science Monthly* in the *SANITARY JOURNAL* for July, the theory appears to be confirmed by practice. The attention of Dr. Carpenter has been largely occupied for many years past with a sewage farm at Croydon, and I cannot do better than conclude this paper with a history of it, as given in the extract below from the *British Medical Journal*, June 19th, 1875. I shall endeavor on some other occasion to give the manurial or agricultural value of the earth excrement of the dry earth system, the facility of transporting and means of applying it, &c :

“ A paper read by Dr. Alfred Carpenter before the Society of Medical Officers of Health, a short time since, on the power of soil, air, and vegetation combined, to defecate sewage, and the power which plants possess of assimilating organic matter, gave rise to a somewhat lively discussion. The opponents of sewage-farming stoutly declared that a sewage-farm was necessarily a pestilential marsh, which gave rise to malaria and nausea, and that the produce was not only innutritious, but unwholesome ; whilst the size to which the root-crops attained was only a proof of the dropsical character of the produce, and formed no test of the nutritive properties. Finally, it was stated that cattle could not thrive upon such fodder, and a challenge was given to prove the contrary.

Dr. Carpenter took up the gauntlet thus thrown down, and pledged himself to convince any gentleman who would take the trouble to visit the Beddington Farm, that not only was the farm wholesome in its surroundings, that it was not a pestilential swamp, but that cattle did thrive upon the produce during their lives, and made excellent meat when killed ; and a *dejeuner* was promised, the solid portion at least of which was to consist entirely of sewage-farm produce. Pursuant to this invitation, a large number of gentlemen visited the Beddington Farm last Saturday, the 12th inst.

The Beddington Farm has, for the past fifteen years, received the sewage of about 52 thousand inhabitants of Croydon daily, in quantities varying from a minimum of three millions to a maximum of ten millions of gallons *per diem*. The smaller