

sulphuretted hydrogen are prevented; and the mixture of earth and excrement, unlike the mixture of water and excrement, is removed from the premises without the possibility of injury either to the occupiers of those premises or to the public.*

2. The Dry Earth system is *admissible into sick rooms and into the wards of hospitals*; and through its admission one of the greatest miseries of human life, the foul smells of the sick room, and one of the most frequent means of communicating infection, may be entirely checked. Again, public urinals at railway stations and in our streets, instead of being the greatest nuisances, may be rendered completely inodorous. And other public conveniences, to the immense relief of human nature, may, by this means, be established, not only without any offence to the neighbourhood, but with pecuniary profit to the parties establishing and maintaining them.

Lastly, while this system obviates the contamination of well-water, quite as effectually as the water system can; it does not, as the water system invariably does, by expensive works entailing heavy rates and increased burden of rent, promote the overcrowding of houses and rooms, and the increase in this direction of the causes of sickness.

This points to the advantages of the *dry earth* system in an economical point of view. No expensive public works are required for its adoption. A population of 7000 people would require, for the water system, an outlay on such works of at least 7000*l.*, to say nothing of the cost of the water-works. The private cost would be, I suppose, equal to this; and there is the lasting expense of water supply and repairs. The private works for such a population adopting the dry earth system, could scarcely exceed the cost of 7000*l.*—the public works would be nothing—the supply of earth would be nothing—and the repairs ought to be almost nothing. Indeed, I know a case—the case of a school of seventy boys—in which the earth is supplied and removed by a farmer, who has agreed to give 10*s.* a month for the produce. This is little enough—still even this is a vast advantage over the water system. By the water system, again, the whole, or very nearly the whole, of this valuable source

* Mr. Moule writes elsewhere "The Cess-pool and Privy Vault are simply an unnatural abomination—they form so many treasure houses of bad smells and noxious gases, so many sources of disease and death, and at the same time waste the most natural and effective fertilizers of the soil." "The water closet used in connection with the Cess-pool, has only increased these evils. It affords convenience, but the evil of noxious gases is increased, and brought nearer home, and the water causing the excreta more readily to percolate the sub-soil, frequently this poisons the neighboring wells."

With the effects of the sewage and drainage of Towns and Cities in polluting the waters of their rivers, the public has of late years become painfully familiar. On this subject the Royal Commissioners on Town sewage in England arrived at the following startling conclusions.

"1st. That the increasing pollution of the Rivers and Streams of the country, is an evil of national importance which urgently demands the application of remedial measures."

"2nd. That this evil has *largely increased with the growing cleanliness and internal improvement of Towns as regards water supply and drainage, that its increase will continue to be in direct proportion to such improvements.*" [Ed.]