

ing of pure water increasingly difficult. 5. Because it is financially and economically disastrous, crippling the rate-payers and exhausting the land. 6. Because it is one of the chief causes of over-crowding, the greatest of all sanitary evils.

It may be asked, 'What useful purpose can be served by talking thus to an audience of Londoners? London is hopelessly committed to the principle of water-carried sewage, and must make the best of it.' To this I reply that even London need not needlessly increase her already insurmountable difficulties, and that happily the whole of England is not yet quite absorbed into London and other cities. There is a very general belief throughout the country that, because London has adopted the system of water-carriage, it must therefore be the best. This idea is unthinkingly adopted, and to its adoption the distinction of borrowing and disbursing a large amount of other people's money acts as a spur. There has come within my own knowledge the case of a country town, in the midst of a poor agricultural district, which clamoured for a 'sewage scheme' for the purpose of polluting its sparkling water-course, where anglers pay large sums for the purpose of trout-fishing, its death-rate being at the time between 16 and 17.

In the Thames Valley, the region of villas and market gardens, a whole crop of 'sewage schemes' has lately sprung up, notwithstanding that the more rational methods of sanitation would be easier and cheaper.

Only the other day I visited a lone farmhouse which a friend wished to take for the summer, and I found that the proprietor, having taken the soil-pipe of a recently erected water-closet into a cesspool alongside a deep well

sunk in the chalk, had rendered his house unlettable to any thinking person, and lastly I heard last week of a friend who took a moor in Scotland, and wished to have rational methods of sanitation, but the noble owner, bitten by the modern craze for water, would allow nothing but water-carriage, and accordingly laid his filthy pipes to foul the babbling highland burn, and deprive the soil of that which it needed.

Again, in institutions such as work-houses, barracks, schools, and the like, water-carriage is often adopted, notwithstanding the favourable conditions for rational methods. The ignorance of soldiers in this matter is an acknowledged cause of the sickness and mortality during campaigns.

There seems, in short, a very great necessity for directing attention to the 'shortcomings' of water-carried sewage.

TEST YOUR HOUSE DRAINS.—Drain and soil pipes should be occasionally tested, as cracks and leakages may arise from various causes. First close all vents and openings in pipes: Then pour one or two ounces according to the length of the drain, of oil of peppermint into the soil-pipe at its mouth above the roof or into the basin or water-closet nearest the roof. Pour in, immediately after, a pailful of hot water; if the odor of peppermint is perceived at any lower fixture, it is an indication that there is an opening in some pipe through which foul air may escape. The peppermint should be kept outside of the house until needed, and the person who pours it in should remain on the roof or in the room with closed doors, until the examination of the fixtures below has been made by an assistant; otherwise the odor may come from the bottle or the clothing of the person and spoil the test.