

fore, of the opinion that, however, undesirable, it will be necessary to permit storm-water to flow directly into rivers without preliminary cleansing. Unfortunately, chemical analysis shows that storm-water, so far at least as its earlier portions are concerned, is more polluting than dry-weather sewage, owing to old deposits in the sewers being then swept to the outfall; and it will be important to guard against any unnecessary use of this exceptional permission."

3. CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD IN 1875 TO INQUIRE INTO THE VARIOUS METHODS OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

"1. That the scavenging sewerage and cleansing of towns are necessary for comfort and health. . . .

"That the retention . . . of refuse and excreta . . . in cesspools . . . or other places in the midst of towns must be utterly condemned; and that none of the (so-called) dry-earth or pail-system or improved privies can be approved other than as palliatives for cesspit-middens.

"3. That the sewerage of towns, and the draining of houses must be considered a prime necessity. . . .

"4. That most rivers and streams are polluted by a discharge into them of crude sewage, which practice is highly objectionable.

"5. That as far as we have been able to ascertain, none of the existing modes of treating town sewage by deposition and by chemicals in tanks appear to effect much change beyond the separation of the solids and the clarification of the liquid. That the treatment of sewage in this manner, however, effects a considerable improvement, and, when carried to its greatest perfection, may in some cases be accepted.

"6. That, so far as our examinations extend, none of the manufactured manures made by manipulating town's refuse, with or without chemicals, pay the contingent cost of such modes of treatment; neither has any mode of dealing separately with excreta, so as to defray the cost of collection and preparation by a sale of the manure, been brought under our notice.

"7. That town sewage can best and most cheaply be disposed of and purified by the process of land irrigation for agricultural purposes, where local conditions are favourable to its application, but that the chemical value of sewage is greatly reduced to the farmer by the fact that it must be disposed of day by day throughout the entire year, and that its volume is generally greatest when it is of the least service to the land.

"8. That land irrigation is not practicable in all cases; and, therefore, other modes of dealing with sewage must be allowed.

"9. That towns, situate on the sea-coast or on tidal estuaries, may be allowed to turn sewage into the sea or estuary, below the line of low water, provided no nuisance is caused; and, that such mode of getting rid of sewage may be allowed and justified on the score of economy."

4. CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE SOCIETY OF ARTS IN 1876, TO INQUIRE INTO VARIOUS SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE HEALTH OF TOWNS.

"In certain localities where land at a reasonable price can be procured with favourable natural gradients, with soil of suitable quality and in sufficient quantity, a sewage farm, if properly conducted, is apparently the best method of disposing of water carried sewage.

"It is essential, however, to bear in mind that a profit should not be looked for by the locality establishing the sewage farm, and only a moderate one by the farmer.

"With regard to the various processes based upon subsidence, precipitation, or filtration, it is evident that by some of them a sufficiently purified element can be produced for discharge, without injurious result, into water courses and rivers of sufficient magnitude for its considerable dilution, and for many towns where land