

ON THE DISPOSAL OF "NIGHT SOIL" IN CITIES AND TOWNS.

THE difficulties experienced by Toronto in respect to a place for the deposit of the "night soil" of the city induces us to make a few remarks on this subject which may be of benefit to many cities and towns as well as to the people who live in the neighborhood of the locality in which such soil is deposited. The reports from sewage farms, in which the sewage is disposed of in a fresh state, all go to show that no increase whatever in the sickness or mortality rates had ever taken place in the neighborhood from such application of sewage. Fermenting, putrefying excreta is very different from fresh sewage, yet, with proper management it may be disposed of in the soil without any risk to the health of the neighboring residents. So long as it is not allowed to become dry and its particles are not in any degree diffusible by wind or air currents before being mingled with the soil, there is no danger from atmospheric infection, but care must be taken that no well or other water supply is near enough, or so situated, as to become infected by it. All that deposited during the warm weather should be immediately well and completely covered with a layer of earth, and any that is deposited during the winter must

receive careful attention early in the spring. The great point is, and the invariable rule should be, to bury the excrement in, and mingle it with, the soil as soon as possible after it has been carted to its destination. The value of fresh lime and dry earth in dealing with fermenting organic matters of this kind was well illustrated at the last meeting of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, of England, by Dr. Sykes, who narrated his experience of the immense value of these substances in the removal of 2,000 bodies and 4,000 tons of the most horribly offensive earth from St. James's Churchyard, in the parish of St. Pancras, to the extra-mural cemetery. As the ground was opened quicklime was thrown in, and the stench at once ceased. The coffins were placed in wooden cases with lime, and at first lime was spread over the loads of earth; but complaints being made by the residents in the streets through which the carts passed, he substituted clean earth, when no more complaints were raised. The graveyard had been closed for twenty years, and "the condition of the bodies was awful," indeed, without the lime it was said the operation would have been impossible.

ON GARBAGE DISPOSAL—SUGGESTIVE.

NEARLY all large cities experience difficulty in disposing of their coarse garbage—household or kitchen refuse, chiefly ashes, dead animals, &c. No crematory has yet been discovered which can be worked with much satisfaction: although doubtless by complete combustion in a superheated furnace would be the best manner of disposal. Toronto is now being put to great inconvenience for want of some satisfactory means of preventing her garbage from becoming a nuisance and knows not what to do with her refuse. We would suggest a low piece of ground with plenty of fresh lime and fresh earth, the drier the better.

Ashes, of course, never gives rise to a nuisance, except by being unsightly when in the wrong place. If all organic refuse—kitchen waste, dead animals and the like, were well covered at once when deposited with quick lime or dry earth, they could not give rise to a nuisance anywhere, and a small acreage of low ground would take with advantage a great deal of such matter. If properly deposited, *i.e.*, covered or mingled with abundance of lime and earth, there does not appear to be any reason why such ground might not be built upon after many years; although it would be better to reserve such places for parks or vacant places, when well covered with