

agricultural value has been raised five times over since it has been so utilised, its power to employ labour correspondingly multiplied to the advantage of the tradesmen and owners of cottage property in the borough, whilst the housewife has the choice of so much more milk and meat than would have the case if no farm had existed. Let these conditions be established in five hundred other districts in the kingdom, including London, and pauperism will be correspondingly lessened, because so much more labour will be provided, at least 40,000 agriculturalists kept on the land, who are not employed, the price of mill kept down, whilst thousands will have it who cannot have it now, and a mass of wealth added to that belonging to the country, which ought to recommend sewage farming to all political economists, who study production and its effect upon population.

Dr. C. R. Drysdale, in a paper, contended that the only rational and satisfactory way of treating the sewage of cities and restoring the rivers to their original purity was by the method now used in Berlin, Paris, Croydon, Birmingham, Nottingham, and elsewhere, that is, agricultural utilisation on suitable areas and soils. This was the only scientific way, and moreover the only method compatible with economy of food supplies. The Metropolitan Board of Works was a glaring instance of want of all plan in this question. The sewage farm at Paris at the plain of Gennevilliers had gradually become a most important experiment since the late engineer, M. Durand Claye, after studying sewage farms in England, abandoned the chemical plans as hopeless, and commenced to experiment with some acres with the fluid sewage. At present 600 hectares, or 1,500 acres, were irrigated with the sewage of Paris, and 20 millions of cubic metres of the sewage were annually used. The prosperity of the plain of Gennevilliers, which was cultivated by small proprietors, and also its salubrity, had been greatly increased; for, in the five years ending 1887, the population of the plain had increased 34 per cent, and the annual rental of the land increased from 90 to 450 francs per hectare. The Parisian authorities had been so convinced of the success of this experiment that the remaining portion of the Parisian sewage was soon to be utilised on about 3,000 acres at Achères, and there was also to be further irrigation by the sewage at the east end of Paris. The amount of market-produce obtained on the farms at Gennevilliers was quite remarkable, such as 40,000 heads of cabbages per hectare (16,000 per acre) and 100,000 kilos of beet per hectare (40 tons per acre). The peasants raised a gross value of from £120 to £400 per hectare from the land annually. Vegetables of all kinds grown for the Parisian markets, and in dry seasons a great portion of the supply was obtained on the carefully cultivated market-gardens. . . . The Berlin sewage farms employed 2,056 persons and were a great success. The cities of Berlin, Dantzic, and Breslau, with an aggregate of about two million inhabitants, had had excellent sewage farms for the last fifteen years. Berlin had now under sewage irrigation 16,657 acres on the north, north-east, and south of the city. The lengths of the