

receiving the deposits. The apparatus for throwing the earth is precisely the same in all respects as that used in the large closet. I have had one of these commodes in constant use in my house for a year and a half. It usually stands in a room which connects two others that are constantly occupied. It has been used, during the whole period, three times a day on an average. The fact of its standing where it does has never prevented us from keeping the doors open into the other rooms whenever desirable. The room in which it is used for other purposes, precisely as it would have been were the commode not there; and, in case of sickness, it is removed into the bedroom of the invalid, its contents being carried out only when the hod is filled. Under all circumstances, it is as inoffensive and innocuous as any other piece of furniture. Keeping it in constant use, I have found it desirable to have two hods—using them alternately.—With this simple precaution, and the most ordinary care to prevent the hod from becoming too full, I have found it to answer its purpose more perfectly than any water-closet I have ever seen.

If I desired to give the strongest possible proof of the entire success of the Earth System, I could not better do so than by showing this Commode in constant daily use in a close room, communicating only with two heated bedrooms, and causing no more annoyance to any member of the family than if it were a box of dry ashes. The amount of attention required is trifling. About once in four or five days the servant carries a hod of dry earth from a box in the woodshed, and pours it into the hopper, taking the full hod out from under the seat and putting the empty one in its place. The full hod is then carried out, its contents are emptied into the manure bin, and it is hung out in the open air, to be freshened by sun or rain until another supply of earth is required for the Commode. The labor is less than that of supplying water to the wash-stand ewers, and the annoyance is no greater than that of carrying out a hod of ashes."

We next present to our readers an engraving which represents the machinery of the Commode, hidden from view of course, by the outer case which appears in the preceding illustration. The mechanical parts are substantially the same in all the

closets, and simply provide for storing the dry earth ready for use, and distributing it as required.

There is, it will be perceived, a handle very similar to what is used in a water-closet. Pulling this with quick action, a lever is operated which opens a hopper, and jerks out about a pint of dirt, scattering it over the deposit. Just enough wood-work is connected with the mechanism shown in the annexed engraving, to form a frame, around which any carpenter or cabinet-maker can build a Closet or Commode in any style taste or circumstances may dictate.

Our next engraving represents a form of closet,

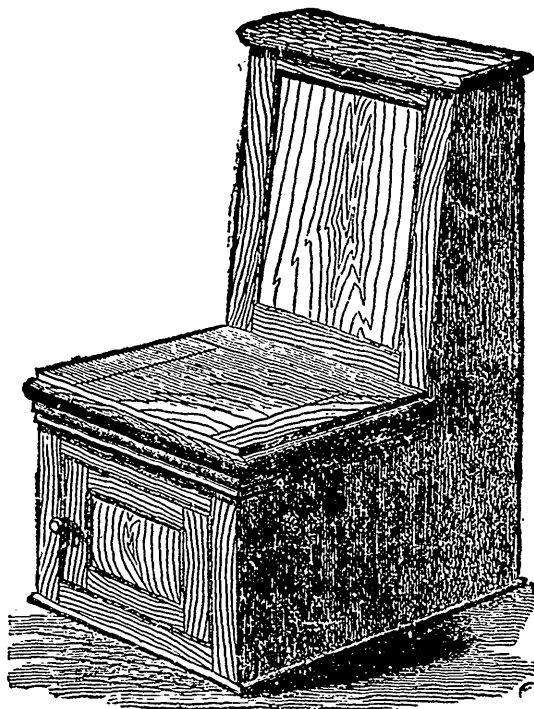
which in the generality of families may be made to take the place of the ordinary privy.

The reservoir and hopper, as represented in the annexed engraving, will hold about three barrels of earth, and one filling will last a family of eight or ten persons about three months. Col. Waring says of this closet, which he has had "in constant use :—

"It was filled the 20th of May, 1869. The closet was used daily until the 20th of August, when the supply of earth was exhausted, and the tank was filled. The tank was then emptied into a large box in the same room, and the reservoir was partly filled with fresh earth. Late in October this earth was ex-

hausted, and it was found that that which had been taken out of the tank in August was dry enough to be used again. It was accordingly sifted and put into the hopper. There was no vestige of paper, except a little near the top of the mass, and in the whole there was not more than half a peck of solid feces. All the rest had been completely absorbed and disintegrated by the earth. This small quantity which probably had not decayed for want of moisture, had, when broken, the appearance and odor of rotten wood. This same lot of earth, having passed through the closet a second time, was, with its contents of excrement, removed from the tank into the box on the 24th of December, and it now has exactly the appearance and odour of any moist earth.

"Since the cool weather commenced in October,



PORTABLE COMMODE.