

The importance and necessity of some effective steps being taken to correct this wide-spread evil, all admit; but the difficulty is how to accomplish an end universally desired. Investigations by Parliamentary Committees and Government Commissions, have shewn that many of the methods proposed for this object are not sufficiently remunerative to stimulate commercial enterprise in the application of sewage to the soil. Much difference of opinion exists as to irrigating farm lands with sewage, diluted of course with water. Some farmers who have tried it, say that when thus diluted, it is too weak to be of much real service, and that they prefer concentrated manures. The great difficulty seems to be to get rid of the water needed to wash the refuse and filth out of the city into the country. On light land, well drained, this plan has worked pretty well, but with stiff clay, even though under-drained, the surface is made a mortar-like morass in wet weather, and a dry-brick surface in hot weather, conditions both of which are unfavourable to the growth of crops. Too much water rather than too little, is usually the complaint of English agriculturists. Besides the sewage must at all times be disposed of in some way, and often it would be an injury rather than a benefit. At Croydon and Carlisle successful works have been put in operation, by which the sewage, deodorized and concentrated, is applied to land owned by the corporations, which land is let out to small tenants. The Croydon land thus enriched, rents for £5 sterling an acre per annum, and pays handsomely. It is proposed thus to enrich a low, thinly populated region in the vicinity of the city of London, or even to carry the entire outflow forty miles distant to a tract of foreshore,—the "Maplin Sands" and the "Denge Flats,"—where 20,000 acres or more might readily be embanked from the sea, and converted into a fertile plain. The plan adopted by the city of Coventry is to convey the night soil about two miles out of town, where it is deodorized by street sweepings. On this plan, the expense and proceeds about balance each other.

When in England, some three years since, we became acquainted with and much interested in a plan devised and recommended by the Rev. H. Moule, which we find is now attracting more general notice. It is known as the "earth method" of treating night soil, and consists in fitting up the privy with a tight drawer, into which is put from time to time a supply of dry earth to absorb the liquid, and combine with the solid excrement. This simple course is said thoroughly to counteract offensive odours, and speedily to convert night soil into an available and powerful manure. It would be difficult, though not impossible, to adopt this plan in large towns and cities, but in thinly-peopled neighbourhoods, where there are plots of garden ground, it is quite feasible, and perhaps the best course that can be pursued. It is being strongly recommended for adoption in all suburban localities, and for schools, work-houses, hospitals and prisons. At the late meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Bath, Mr. McGee read a paper, giving an account of the course pursued at the Bradford Union (Wiltshire):—

"As chairman of a Wilts Poor Law Union, where the boys' and girls' schools' sewerage has been for two years simply, clearly, and effectually deodorized and wholly saved by the Rev. H. Moule's earth method, I would most strongly advocate the 'dry way' and not the 'wet way,' as the true method for half the population of this kingdom. All houses and cottages that are not in towns, all workhouses, hospitals, and prisons will find this plan easily available. For 15 months ending midsummer last, there had been no removal of the product from the schools' shed, so that the heap of excreta and earth, then apparent, resulted from, say, 45 children during that long period. It must be understood that whenever the soil became sufficiently dry, under cover, it was used over and over again, and it will be hardly credible that the whole quantity did not weigh three tons. Two tons were sold to neighbouring farmers, and I purchased about 1 cwt. of the remainder, of

which I am able to send you a small box. It is quite inoffensive, and might be handled by a lady in potting flowers. Without disparaging other plans for towns, I venture to think you will advocate the adoption of the 'dry way' for every one who does not live in a street. Supposing even in any street persons were bold enough to try it, I will advance that according to the above result, six families might, by one visit among them of one dust cart in five months, be supplied with dry earth and relieved of a valuable product."

Manure is the great want of every farmer and gardener, and surely it is well by some such process as the above, to secure from waste the richest fertilizer known, and thus transform a nuisance into a blessing.

### Smithfield Club Cattle Show.

THE Smithfield Fat Cattle Show, instituted now for more than half a century, annually takes place, as everybody knows, in London, the beginning of December. It commenced in a very humble way in a narrow lane in Smithfield, and was afterwards removed for better accommodation to the Baker Street Bazaar, where by frequently enlarging the building and yards, the ever-increasing tendency of the Exhibition found accommodation for many long years, until a final point was reached, and Baker Street could not, by the exercise of any ingenuity, be made to hold the annually augmenting material that crowded the Smithfield Show. Accordingly, two or three years ago a Joint Stock Company erected the new Agricultural Hall at Islington, on a very extensive scale, and specially adapted to the various departments of an Agricultural Exhibition. It appears that, financially, the speculation has become already a great success, while affording exhibitors and the public ample accommodation.

From the reports that have reached us, it would appear that the late Exhibition, taken as a whole, was in advance of preceding years. A constant and healthy progress is maintained, which with excellent management, inspires public confidence and keeps the coffers of the Society abundantly replenished. The money premiums on the late occasion reached the magnificent sum of £2,000, besides cups and medals of large amount. Any animal or article at these Shows, failing to win a money premium or medal, but having a card attached, "highly commended," or "commended," as the case may be, is regarded by the owner and the public of no small importance, and where competition is both extensive and severe, the value of such notices does not fail to be appreciated.

The Shorthorns, as usual, mustered in great strength, and, with the exception of a few indifferent animals, were good, but not superior to what have appeared before. There seems reason to infer from the various criticisms that have appeared of late, that Shorthorn men must bestir themselves more, or this hitherto most favourite breed will not maintain the high position which it has long enjoyed, while some other breeds—the Herefords, for instance—are fast progressing. Mr. Kirkham's steer, in the new class, under two and a half years, was an extraordinary animal, both as regards symmetry and early maturity. It was sold for £70, an extraordinary price for an animal under thirty months, and worthy of the gold medal. Mr. Taylor's roan Shorthorn, Trinet, a beautiful heifer, obtained a silver cup, a judgment which the public unanimously endorsed. Portraits of both these animals may be seen in the *Illustrated London News*, for December 17th. The Herefords were also numerous, and as a class they are unquestionably advancing. The beautiful Devons were in considerable force and fully maintained their characteristic excellencies. The Sussex, Polled, and Longhorns, in point of number, were unusually small, but exhibited no falling off in quality. A similar remark will apply to the Welsh and Irish breeds. The Westhighlanders were quite as numerous as usual: most of the prizes went to England,

where these beautiful animals are fed to great perfection. The cross-breeds were numerous and attracted much attention, as most useful animals. In sheep and pigs the Show was particularly good, better, perhaps, than on any previous occasion. Mr. Overman obtained the silver cup for his splendid South-down and Leicester wethers, a cross that is said to be getting quite fashionable. Mr. Saunders, of Blandford, won the gold medal for his seven months' and eleven days' pigs, of the Yorkshire breed, which are spoken of as extraordinary animals; having been prepared on "barley meal, skim milk and sugar!"

In the department of machinery, implements, &c., the Smithfield Show continues to more than maintain its wonted high character. The *Daily Telegraph* remarks:—

"The show of implements is bewildering in its magnitude and variety, and includes divers machines which would be considered bold innovations on practical agriculture. The cleaning of knives and of boots, the polishing of plate, the chopping of mince-meat for sausages, the paring of apples, the whisking of eggs, and the washing of linen, would appear to have some connection, however, with this important pursuit, to judge from the character of a great many stands in the gallery and avenue. The exhibitors of purely agricultural mechanism, such as Messrs. Burgess and Key, Clayton, Shuttleworth & Co., Garrett & Co., Fowler & Co., Ransomes, and Tuxford, compete in spirited fashion; but the chief novelty is the patent engine exhibited by Messrs. James and Frederick Howard, of Bedford, and designed on a plan which promises a most extended utility in cultivation and general farm purposes, such as threshing and grinding, sawing, pumping, and hauling heavy loads. There is an equally vigorous competition in the display of farm produce by the great firms of Gibbs & Co., George Gibbs & Co., Carter & Co., Sutton & Sons, Skirving, of Liverpool, and Peter Lawson & Co., of Edinburgh. This last named firm, so prominently distinguished in the bygone shows at Baker street, and at all the agricultural meetings throughout the kingdom, has of late years discontinued entering for the exhibitions of the Smithfield Club, and the name now re-appears in sponsorship for the 'Phospho Guano Company.' Enterprise is well directed that encourages and promotes the use of the best manures, and it is, therefore, a good thing that this branch of agricultural commerce is so largely represented at the Islington Show. Messrs. Gibbs, Bell & Co., by whose vitrolite process guano is said to be strengthened in power while it is reduced in price, are exhibitors; and so are Messrs. Whitworth & Co., to the value of whose concentrated fish manure the principal seed farmers bear high testimony."

### Progress in Dysart.

THE Canadian Land and Emigration Company seem to be pushing improvements forward in their new settlement with great vigour. We have received from the Local Agent, Mr. C. R. Stewart, an extract from the *Peterborough Review*, giving an account of some festive proceedings at Haliburton, on December 8th, to celebrate the opening of the new saw-mill. By the joint liberality of the Company and the mill proprietors, a dinner was provided, to which the settlers, to the number of about seventy, sat down, and when the repast was over, speeches were made by Mr. Miles, the Company's Surveyor, and Mr. Stewart, the Agent, from which we cull a few particulars indicating the march of improvement in this newly settled region. During the past few months, fourteen miles of road have been built in the Company's territory, to a junction with the Peterson road, and fourteen miles more have been improved in the adjacent Townships of Minden and Snowden to connect the settlement with the Bobcaygeon road. At least two concession lines are to be opened, and various short lines of road constructed during the present winter. The sales of land have gone on so fast that the agent expects to have the whole of Dysart settled in another year. The Company have provided a surgeon, built a church, and are making arrangements for the establishment of a school under the provisions of the Common School Act, which it is expected will be in operation within the next three months. Even thus early in the history of the settlement, an Agricultural Society is talked of. The Com-