

BOOK NOTICES.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. January, 1876. Boston: Wright & Potter.

This is a large volume, with a large number of plates and maps which assist in the understanding of the text. All the papers, like those of its predecessors, are highly instructive, and cannot fail to exert a great influence in effecting Sanitary Reform. From the very lengthy article on "Disposal of Sewage," by the Secretary, Dr. Folsom, we give below very brief extracts. Sewage irrigation, in sewage farming, is regarded as being the best method of sewage disposal:—"Careful investigations in France, Germany, and England have failed to bring to light a single case of injury to health, or of offence arising from sewage-irrigation properly conducted. The First Rivers Pollution Commission say in their final report: "When foul smells are complained of as coming from sewage-irrigated lands, the causes are in the state of the sewage, or the rude way of using it."

ON THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE, "In England, Scotland and France, no difficulty is found in irrigating through the winter. In the colder climate of Berlin, where the ground freezes to a depth of three feet, some difficulty was expected; but experiments have shown that irrigation will be successful the year through. In winter the sewage keeps warm enough under ice and snow to soak into the ground and become purified. Its purification is not as complete as in summer, but sufficient to allow it to be discharged into the rivers. At Dantzig, where the climate is quite similar to that of Massachusetts, sewage irrigation has been interrupted only one winter by the cold, and then only for a few days at a time. In dry climates, of course, sewage-irrigation is more successful than in moist.

AS TO COST OR PROFIT, "Sewage-farms have been usually managed by local boards. If an ordinary farm were to be managed by them, the result would, undoubtedly, be the same. The Earl of Warwick has, at Leamington, an admirably-conducted sewage-farm, one of the few in England which are carried on by private enterprise. He pays £450 a year for the sewage from a population of 20,000; and it is generally agreed his investment has proved a good one."

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT of the Secretary of the State Board of Health of Michigan. Lansing: W. S. George & Co. This is a nicely bound volume containing a large amount of instructive matter. We give extracts from it elsewhere.

REPORT of the Medical Officers of Health of the City of Montreal. This contains many useful suggestions. One, that a "great need exists for the inspection by a competent and reliable man of all the internal drainage of houses, and no drains should be laid and covered without inspection and permission given by such officer."