

our house after a prolonged visit to the country. If we do remember that the drain has been unused, we will at once pour water into our traps, and then open all our doors and windows for a few hours.

Another method of unsealing is by suction. When a drain or pipe is running full bore, and with great rapidity, the water from small connecting traps, emptying into the side, will be drawn out as by a piston syringe. This may obtain, in a hotel or other house of several stories, with a main soil pipe and a number of connecting traps.

I believe that the forcing of traps from the expansion of sewer gas is a most common, and often undetected, cause of disease.

It will readily be seen that this forcing may be obviated by providing a vent in the wall of the drain. The best place will, of course, be as near as possible to the trap on the sewer side of it (inasmuch as this is the highest spot between the trap and street drain), and of course at the top of the arch, the highest point, and also that at which it will not be sealed by water.

The remarks in this paragraph may be better understood by a reference to the accompanying cut, representing roughly a vertical section of a two-story house, with water-closet (C), trap (T), house drain (H H), street sewer (S), and ventilating shaft (V V) rising from the house drain just outside the house on the sewer side of the trap.

