

Prof. Lawson, of Dalhousie College, in which he suggests a doubt as to the deodorizing power of "dry earth" upon animal and vegetable matter in a state of decomposition. The Professor appeals to certain eminent names for the affirmative side of the question—Liebig, Voeleker, and others, endorsed by experiments accounted conclusive both in England and India, but whether he himself considers these grounds conclusive, I should like to know. I am the more earnest about this matter, Sir, because I think that, in all enquiries touching a subject of such vital moment to society and the interests of all Hygiene, no opinions should be privately withheld under a bushel that can enlighten the public mind, and lay a lasting foundation for the reception of a momentous truth. It would have been just as well then for the Professor to have observed, that the experience of all ages, from Moses in the patriarchal time down to the present day, has ever shown as instinctive a knowledge of the deodorizing properties of earth to remove all putrescent offensiveness by burial, as a kindred instinct has taught alike that water quenches thirst.

In the later ages, when chemistry has supplanted alchemy, and scientific enquiry and progress have elevated reason above the glimmer of instinct, the questions are no longer all "abstract and mystery" as they once were. This one postulate in science, that "moisture" is essential to "fermentation" settles the whole matter. There can be no "fermentation" without "moisture;" and as "putrefaction" is a process of fermentation, without fermentation there can be no putrefaction. Consequently without moisture there can be no putrefaction. Dry earth then,—and the dryer the more absorbent,—arrests putrefaction by the withdrawal of moisture! Consequently no animal and vegetable matter can pass into a state of putrefaction, enveloped in dry earth. It is the property peculiar to clay, for instance—its astonishing tenacity of water that gives us the Pyrometer to test exalted temperature. As Providence, therefore, has given us water—a universal and priceless beverage—to quench our thirst, so with an equally provident and benign purpose, to preserve us from universal contagion, it has given us earth to enclose our dead, and the still deadlier elements of putrefactive death. Therefore, by all means, spread it far and wide, the fact of the inestimable value of kiln-dried earth for all purposes of anti-putrescent arrangements. Nothing could possibly be so conducive to the healthiness of the city as a decided advance in this direction; and if some enterprising public individual would only take the matter up, and contract with the city to remove all metropolitan offal, by the process in question, he should be permitted at once to do so,

and every facility readily granted him by the authorities, backed moreover by a liberal subsidy. I would add, the community should feel themselves highly indebted to Mr. Young for initiating this subject in the way he has chosen.

This is a matter which, we doubt not, in the hands of men like Nash, Aekhurst, McCulloch, Jennings and others, with their financial skill, would speedily command the most unexceptional arrangement, if they should think proper to take it up. As to Ald. Nash—when I think of this man, who stepped on life's arena but yesterday, with nothing but his untiring energy for his fortune—who has raised up within a few years, you may say, half a city of walled structure around him, all his own!—I invariably revert to Burns—his imperishable epigram "the man's the man for a' that." Yes! and if I mistake not, it will not be long when these convictions are again exemplified in a new City Hall—Mr. Nash's portage—which he will erect without loss to the city—not only without expense, comparatively trifling, but with the more compensating gain of architectural beauty and accommodation, all a city's pride! A city too, just about starting, we believe, into European dimensions; but what in the name of cities, and all the Enochs, can architecture do without the genius of "Finance?" Nash has it!

March 7, 1867.

PROGRESS.

DEATH OF AN IMPORTED RAM.

New Annan, Jan. 16, 1867.

I am sorry to inform you that the ram purchased by our society at Richmond is dead. Cause not known; some say he was fed too much on oats. He was a noble animal, and gave general satisfaction. Most of the members took the use of him, so I think we will have a good sprinkling of his stock.

W. CREIGHTON.

REPLY TO "PROGRESS" ON THE DRY EARTH CLOSET SYSTEM.

In the note appended to Mr. Young's communication last month, I thought there was no room left for doubt as to my opinion. I repeat the following extracts from that note, which will be seen to form a direct reply to the question put by "Progress":—

"Further consideration and experiment HAVE SHOWN MOST CONCLUSIVELY that earth, if dry, is a most effectual deodorizer."

"The experiments and practical operations that have been carried out by a large number of persons in England and India, private gentlemen and public officials, LEAVE NO ROOM TO DOUBT that odours emanating from organic matter may be COMPLETELY removed or absorbed by enveloping such matter in dry earth."

"A dry closet system would afford the means of MOST EFFECTUALLY preserving our streets and dwellings from bad odours. The water of the harbour would be kept pure, there would be no putrid slime left on the shore by the receding tide, and lastly Halifax would cease to resemble Edinburgh in having a "Foul Burn" running through its suburbs."

G. L.

A HOT CHRISTMAS.

To northern minds "Christmas Eve" suggests clear frosty weather, with cold winds without and a bright blazing fire within. But it is not so all the world over. In a letter which we have from R. C. Stapley, Esq., dated "Newcastle, Jamaica, Christmas Eve, 1866," he observes:—"While you are no doubt freezing, it is unusually hot with us, even for the place, and we are obliged to keep out of the sun, as it is very powerful." To which we may reply, that the broiling heats and glaring suns of Christmas time do not cause us much inconvenience in these northern regions.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

HARDWOODLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT—IMPROVEMENT OF CATTLE—MONTHLY DISCUSSIONS.

The officers and members of the Hardwoodland Agricultural Society, thankful for the assistance rendered by Government, through the kind agency of the Central Board of Agriculture, have much pleasure in making this their first report of the society. And although we have not much rapid progress to report for the first year, it is to be hoped we have laid a good, solid foundation for improvement in agricultural progress, which time and perseverance only can bring to perfection. As it was unanimously agreed that we should use our first efforts in the improvement of cattle and sheep, our Society directed the managers to purchase two bulls, of the most improved breeds; they accordingly purchased one, a very fine thorough-bred Durham; and as they could not obtain another so good, they were under the necessity of purchasing one of a worse description, although a very good animal. It was also agreed that each member should receive the service of one cow from each bull free; and it is confidently expected that such service will disseminate a considerable improvement in the stock of this locality, as they will all be preserved for keeping-stock. Our Society farther agreed that our thorough bred bull should be kept for next summer's use, and the worst sold, which was accordingly done, as will be seen in our receipts. We regret to