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## Original Communications.

### VENTILATED HOUSE DRAINAGE.

(A paper read before the Citizens' Public Health Association.)

BY JAMES H. SPRINGLE, ARCHITECT, C.E.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen,*—In resuming the discussion of ventilated house drainage this evening, I think, Mr. Chairman, it is proper to state, that the introduction of the present system of water supply to cities and towns, has, during the last thirty or forty years, wrought a radical change in the disposal of the water waste, refuse and excreta of dwellings. Formerly, the privy pit and dust heap received the waste and house refuse, and when these had accumulated and fermented until they could be endured no longer, then, at a heavy expense and great discomfort, they were removed, and the process of accumulation recommenced.

With the advent, however, of water works and underground sewerage, this mode of disposing of our house waste and refuse has been changed, and now nearly all such matters are removed by water carriage in tubular drains, from the house to the common sewer, and from thence to the river,—the quantity thus discharged in Montreal, exclusive of rainfall, being about eight million gallons per day.

Now, we find that this sewage, from a variety of causes which we cannot at this time consider, becomes stagnant; it ferments, and evolves poisonous gases; and the sewers themselves, from their mode of construction, will, as they become older, grow more foul and offensive, and the effluvia from them must increase