

A SIMPLE METHOD OF DISPOSING OF HOUSE SEWAGE FOR FARM HOMES.

A LINE OF IMPROVEMENT WORK.

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IN these days of popular education, when the people throughout the Province have the benefit of free lectures in dairying, fruit growing, domestic science, etc., it is noteworthy that a knowledge of so important a subject and one so closely allied to the physical and moral welfare of the people as sanitary science is confined to a limited number.

True, the principles of the science is an open book to the medical profession, and is freely discussed at medical conventions, but these discussions are mainly reported in professional journals and do not reach the great mass of the people at all.

In the matter of public sanitation the question of effectually disposing of sewage in small towns and villages is one of the most important problems that has engaged the attention of scientific men. The great cost of a system of sewage as used in large places has rendered this course impracticable while the use of privy vaults and cess-pools has been found objectionable and dangerous. That there is a desire on the part of those living in towns and villages, as well as in less populated districts for what are known as the "Modern Conveniences" of the city is evidenced by the thousands of cess-pools in existence or being built for the purpose of hiding away far beneath the surface of the earth the various organic and liquid wastes from the private residence, public house or institution as the case may be.

Those in authority labor under the dangerous yet common delusion that "so long as the stuff is put down deep enough there is no danger." and herein lies one of the great-

est causes of many of the diseases which at times are epidemic in whole communities, viz., the pollution of the water supply.

How is the water supply polluted by decaying organic matter buried deep under the surface of the earth?

In answer to this question a brief explanation of the existing physical conditions may be more convincing than bald assertions without the reasons being given therefor.

Over the whole surface of the earth, where vegetation is possible, nature has provided a most wonderful scavenger system, composed of millions of little workers to the cubic foot; these little workers are known as microbes, other species are also found in vast numbers in the water and air.

The natural functions of many of these microbes tend to produce one result, viz., purification, and when one comprehends that both the sun and air are essential to the life of the various species of microbes which are necessary to the proper decomposition of waste matter, it will be unnecessary to state that in the deep sub-soil where both are impossible, microbe life cannot exist, and hence it is stated that instead of being converted into life-producing matter at the surface of the earth, with its dangerous properties destroyed, organic matter is allowed to decay and putrify in the deep dead earth until it is washed into some near by well or stream, there to cause the innumerable ills produced by drinking impure water.

It may be said that wells are too far removed from cess-pools to be in any danger from this source, but the experience of the village of Lawson, near Basle, in Switzer-