

pure clay is difficult to bring into the proper powdery condition, and has a tendency to absorb too much water.

It is not necessary that the earth should be absolutely dry, the drying that it receives from exposure to the atmosphere being sufficient. For use it must be free from lumps and in a powdery condition. This is best effected by screening it.

After being used it may be placed in a barrel, where it will undergo a slight heating and fermentation, after which it may be thrown out on the floor of the shed and exposed to the air in order to dry, and may then be used again. It is said that this process may be repeated ten or a dozen times with the same earth before it becomes offensive. This, however, is not recommended, especially in a country like ours, unless for the manurial value of the product; but it shows the value of dry earth as an absorbent and deodorizer. Anthracite coal ashes have been found to answer in this respect fully as well as loam. Wood ashes act much more powerfully than coal ashes as a deodorizer. When it is considered no longer desirable to use the material it is sold for manure.

House-closets on the dry earth system have been found to answer the purpose very well. They are usually constructed with some patent device for throwing the earth on the faeces each time the closet is used. One of the principal objects of their inventor, the Rev. Henry Moule, was to find a substitute for the water-closet in dwellings, factories, schools, etc.

With dry earth the soap box or barrel, with a scoop, may be used as in the case of the ash system, and will answer every purpose.

Some excellent automatic earth closets, not very extravagant in price, are, however, made in this Province. The addresses of various manufacturers of them may be obtained on application to the Secretary of this Board.

The principal objections to the earth closet are the large quantity of earth required (estimated at from 4 to 5 lbs. per diem for each person if used only once), and the executive difficulties in applying the system to a large population.

It has proved a success under private management, or where regulations can be enforced, as, for instance, in barracks, factories and various public institutions.

3. The Rochdale Pail System

This system differs from the dry ash-pail method before described principally in the fact that no absorbents are used. The pails are frequently removed, being fitted with tight covers, and clean pails left in their places.

The removal of dry refuse, ashes, etc., forms a part of the system. The excrement and the ashes are brought to a depot, where the latter are spread out on the floor to a certain depth. The excrement is then emptied into trenches formed in the ashes and treated with a small quantity of dilute sulphuric acid; the whole is then thoroughly mixed, becomes, after a few weeks, quite inodorous, and forms a valuable manure. The removal and subsequent treatment has of course to be carried out by the municipal authorities.

Mr. Radcliffe reports as follows:—

“That the system had been thoroughly approved by all who had had experience of it, and that it had not failed under the most varied circumstances, having proved equally