

ed, the old disgusting, disease-producing plan of keeping the excrement in privy vaults is universal. There are but few who are not familiar with the serious objections to this plan, and protests are not now necessary here.

The question is, in what way is it best to dispose of the excreta. The late president of the Michigan State Board of Health, Dr. Hitchcock, believes the dry-earth system will eventually supersede water carriage closets and vaults; as it is, he says, the most "sanitary, rational and economical method." "All dead matter," he adds, "when buried in the earth for a time seems capable of a resurrection and a new life, and that the really important and comprehensive question in the disposal of excreta is, how shall it be the soonest and in the safest manner be commingled with the earth?"

In Great Britain, where sewage farming is becoming in a measure common, it is aimed to get the sewage on to the farm and mingled with the earth as soon as possible, or before decomposition sets in. Not only is the fresh sewage considered to be most valuable as a manure, but by having it thus disposed of early there are few sewer gases to contend with in connection with the dwellings.

The greatest objection probably to the dry earth system is the difficulty in many places in obtaining sufficient and suitable dry earth, and in its after removal; though with good and dry earth, a very small quantity suffices to disinfect the excreta and destroy all effluvia.

In suburban places and villages and farm or country homes, the resulting compost may be conveniently applied to a garden. This plan is common in Parkdale, where the dry earth system is made compulsory; or rather perhaps so far compulsory that vaults for ac-

cumulations are not permitted; and the dry earth is the most convenient alternative.

Those who are not able to incur the expense of an elaborate closet, such as the Wakefield, or other patent closet, may fulfil every sanitary requirement by providing under the closet seat, a movable box or tub, and by having a little dry earth scattered daily or oftener over the excreta.

What is called the Goux System has been largely adopted in England, and gives very good satisfaction in towns and villages. In this system tubs are employed which are before use lined with some absorbent material, such as chaff, straw, hay, &c., which absorbs the liquid excreta, and in which is a small percentage of sulphate of iron or lime. The material is pressed close to the bottom and sides of the tub by means of a mould, which is then withdrawn. The tub is removed and another left in its place once or twice a week, or oftener, as provided for.

In the Rochdale System, pails or tubs are used in a similar manner, but which, instead of being lined throughout, as above, contain a quantity of disinfecting fluid, as solution of sulphate of iron.

What appears to be an admirable method is coming into use in England, that of using ordinary house ashes, which are light and always on hand, instead of dry earth. A valuable manure is thereby produced. In the March (1880) number of this JOURNAL was a notice of "Morrell's Patent Self-acting, Cinder-Sifting Ash-Closet." The cinders are separated from the dust, a sufficient quantity of which is distributed over the excrement each time the closet is used, and thus all smell is prevented. As ashes, either of coal or wood, are a waste product in every household, it would seem