

THE
SANITARY JOURNAL,
DEVOTED TO
PUBLIC HEALTH.

VOL. I.]

SEPTEMBER 1875.

[No. 9.

Original Communications.

THE VENTILATION OF DRAINS.

BY WM. OLDRIGHT, M. A., M. D., LECTURER ON SANITARY SCIENCE,
TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

[The following remarks were read, under the above title, in conjunction with a portion of the paper published in our last issue, at the recent meeting of the Canada Medical Association at Halifax.—ED. SANT. JOUR.]

Proceeding now to consider the means taken to prevent the poisoning of districts from sewer gas (when, indeed, any means at all have been taken), we find that they generally consist of efforts to *ventilate sewers*, occasional unscientific efforts to *ventilate house drains into sewers*, and the use of *traps*.

It would take too long to refer to the various kinds of *traps* that have been invented. The two most common kinds, the *siphon* and the *bell*, are, I presume, sufficiently familiar to most persons. Many of us, however, are so rigidly excluded, by the laws of Queen Biddy, from the realms of the kitchen, and scullery, that we know little of her triumph over the bell trap by a simple removal of that grating, a proceeding which at once unseals the trap.

A less common method of unsealing is by evaporation, and this we should bear in mind the night we return and re-open