

with several bales of the moss litter for experimental purposes, and Dr. Laberge, M. O. H. Montreal, undertook to superintend the carrying out of an experiment to determine its deodorizing and absorbent qualities. He reported that 100 pounds of moss litter were sufficient for drying 800 pounds of ordinary excreta from privy pits in Montreal, and rendering it entirely inoffensive. A sample of the product remained for days in the writer's office without attracting notice, and indeed it was quite devoid of odour. Its analysis gave the following results:—

	Per cent.	Lbs. per ton.	Value per ton.
Nitrogen.....	1.31	26.2 at 13c.	\$3.41
Phosphoric acid.....	0.90	18.0 at 5	0.90
Potash.....	0.14	2.8 at 5¼	1.15
			—
Water.....	63.47		\$4.46

The valuation of ordinary fresh barn-yard manure with 75 per cent. of water is about \$2 per ton; with 67 per cent water, as in the case of the average given above by Dr. Goessmann, the value is nearly \$2.15. Therefore, much better results might be expected agriculturally from a "moss manure" of the composition just described.

These facts are reported in order to show that Canada possesses in her waste lands abundance of material which might be used in our towns and villages for the production of a very valuable manure, with the simultaneous introduction of very many sanitary advantages. It is not to be expected that cities or towns which are advantageously situated for the water carriage system, or which have already adopted it, will make any changes, but there are many towns and villages in the Dominion where the application of the moss litter system would be very suitable, and the authorities of which, by selling the product or giving it gratis to the farmers of the neighbourhood, might confer a great agricultural advantage. —*Bulletin Laboratory Inland Revenue, Canada.*

THE PROPHYLACTIC USE OF DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

Dr. Sevestre, the well-known French authority upon diphtheria, has recently reviewed the subject of the prophylaxis of diphtheria by preventive injections of antidiphtheria serum. After giving many details, he states that preventive injections of antitoxin produce immunity in children exposed to diphtheria. Serious accidents have never followed the use of well prepared serum, though an eruption or some joint pains may result. But this immunity only lasts three or four