

Mr. Cowpersmith,—

In regard to the septic tank. Do the bacteria produce themselves in the first place, or do they have to be put there?

Mr. Corns,—

I think there is always a sufficient number of bacteria present. They multiply very quickly under favorable conditions.

Mr. Armer.

I just want to ask a question about the septic tank. I should like to know whether the solid matter was left in the tank or whether it was drawn off with the water?

Mr. Corns,—

If the system is perfect the solid matter is broken up by the bacteria and there is nothing but liquid left, but in practice there is generally considerable solid matter left and this has to be cleaned out.

Mr. Wickson,—

This is a very live subject in Toronto at the present time; both as regards sewage disposal and water supply.

It is not much use my trying to get up a discussion on that tank system, as it seems to have been written by an expert, and all the questions of interest have been answered.

There is one thing I would like to know. I notice the tank shown is on the side of a hill. I have been told of septic tanks in use in gardens, on the level, and they seem to work very well. Is it necessary to have the tank on the side of a hill?

Mr. Corns,—

They usually try to build them on the level ground. In fact a hillside is detrimental to the working of the system. The system is simple when it is on the level, as the flow of the sewage is slower and the earth surrounding each tile has an equal amount of work to do. The illustration shown was intended to facilitate the description of plants which had to be constructed on sloping ground.

Mr. Wickson,—

Are there absolutely no foul gases rising from it; or are they all taken up by the soil?

Mr. Corns,—

The gases are all absorbed by the earth. That is the reason why it must be placed below the ground.