

sewage farms being antagonistic to the life of disease germs, the latter, therefore, soon cease as such to exist.

6. That sewage farms may be carried on in perfect safety close to populations. It is not, however, argued that the effluent water is safe to use for dietetic purposes.

7. That there is an aspect in sewage farming which shows that it is a wise policy for the nation to encourage that form of utilisation from a political economy point of view.

8. That to be financially successful such farms require that the rainfall be separated from the sewage; the area large enough for alternate cropping, and the capital employed sufficient to insure a continuous and rapid consumption of the crops produced.

9. That if practicable sewage utilisation by surface irrigation should be, for financial reasons, within the area of its own watershed, and close to the populations producing the sewage, but it is not a necessity that it should be so, provided it be applied to the land within a few hours, not more than twelve, of its discharge, and that there is no arrest of movement for more than very short periods before it is so utilised.

1. The utilisation of sewage has been carried out on the same land consecutively for thirty years, frequently in a bungling manner, the area however, being increased as the increase of population required it. Commencing with thirty-six acres only in 1851, it was all but abandoned as an incorrect proceeding, because the quantity of sewage applied was in excess of the power of the soil to deal with it. Three hundred acres were then obtained about the time that I first became connected with the farm. These have been increased by new purchases as the quantity of sewage to be applied from increasing population rendered it absolutely necessary to enlarge the area of application, but the land irrigated for the first time thirty years ago still continues in use, and effects its object as perfectly as on the first application. The subsoil of the farm two feet below the surface shows very little alteration, and three feet below is not in any way contaminated by the continued application of sewage. The various crops grown upon the land take out the manurial properties of the sewage, and allow the soil to continue its purifying power even better than at first. To effect this, however, it is necessary that the cropping be incessant and that the land have occasional rest for a year from sewage application. The tendency of the repeated application of sewage to land is to silt up the lower portion of the subsoil and prevent it acting as a filter below the plough level, except for a short time. It follows, therefore, that the sewage must pass over the land rather than through it, and although intermitted downward filtration may purify the water, it will be temporary only, unless the soil is turned over frequently, so as to allow of its aeration. A sewage farm will bear deep ploughing better than other land, and grow larger crops in consequence.

2. The second great fact is that notwithstanding the very large price paid for the land at Beddington and Norwood, namely sometimes as much as £300 an acre, or more for some of it, and