

JUDGE WHEELER, United States circuit court, decided that in taking children who were suffering with whooping-cough to a boarding-house, a man was liable for damages to the mistress of the house, because her child contracted the disease and boarders were kept away.

"HEAP'S PATENT" DRY INODOROUS EARTH OR ASH CLOSETS.—At the recent Health Exhibition in Dublin, in connection with the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, opened 30th Sept. last, these closets were awarded "the medal." This makes 13 Prize Medals awarded to "Heap's Patent." The closets have been manufactured at Manchester, England, and shipped to almost all parts of the world, over 15,000 being now in use. Mr. Heap recently came to Canada and started a Factory in Owen Sound, where he has just formed a Joint Stock Company. This company intend to manufacture these closets on an extensive scale, and to have Depots in Toronto, Winnipeg and Montreal, with Agencies in all the principal Cities. It is also the intention of the Company to form local companies to work the dry earth system in Cities and Towns not provided with, or not well adapted for, a good system of sewerage, in which the dry system affords altogether the best method of disposal of excreta. Mr. Heap, the Managing Director, will be pleased to correspond with municipal authorities, medical officers of health, and any gentlemen interested in the dry earth system. The readers of this JOURNAL need hardly be informed that it has always been a strong advocate of the dry system of excreta disposal, as being altogether the safest.

SULPHUR, in the form of sulphurous acid fumes, has long been regarded as one of the best disinfectants. In Homer's Odyssey, book xxii., where speaking of Ulysses, it is said:

With fire and sulphur, cure of noxious fumes,
He purged the walls and blood-polluted rooms.

A PLAN for using the enormous water power of the Alps for working electric railways in Switzerland is about to take a definite shape.

Miscellaneous.

BAKING POWDERS.—There has been a great deal said and written within the last few years about baking powders. The use of large quantities of potash and soda salts is objectionable, because not essential to health, and most baking powders in the market contain much more objectionable ingredients than these. The following substances, thoroughly mixed, make any excellent baking powder, one which probably cannot be surpassed, in utility and simplicity, and as regards unobjectionable features. It is vastly less expensive, and less of it is required in baking than of most powders. Obtain the two principal ingredients from a reliable druggist or grocer and you will then know what you are using.

Potassa bitart, (Cream Tartar) ..	3 parts
Soda bicarbonate	15 "
Flour	5 "

AN UNUSUAL INSTANCE of poisoning by illuminating gas is given by Dr. G. E. Bentzen, in the *Nordiskt Medicinskt Arkiv*. All the inmates of a house three stories in height, containing sixteen rooms and occupied by six families, suffered from the poisoning. There was no gas supply and not a single gas pipe in the house. There had been a break in the gas main in the street; from this the gas passed through several feet of earth into the cellar, and was thence diffused through the whole house in such quantity that every inmate suffered in nearly equal degree. This shows how readily emanations from the soil may pass into the different apartments of a dwelling.

WILFUL WASTE MAKES WOEFUL WANT.—Liebig, says Mayhew (*London Labor and London Poor*), contends that many an arid and desolate region in the East has been made desolate because men understood not the restoration which all nature demands for the land. He declares that those regions are now desolate because the inhabitants did not understand the art of restoring exhausted soil. It would be hopeless now to form, or attempt to form, the 'hanging gardens,' or to display the rich florescence 'round about Babylon,' to be seen when Alexander the Great died