

cost of disposing of the sewage does not involve more than a rate of 3d. in the pound on the rateable value of Croydon, the whole of which goes to pay interest and purchase money for the land. This payment will extend over a period of less than forty years, when the corporation will be absolute owners of a large, valuable, and unincumbered freehold estate.

Although the farm was working under difficulties on the day of the visit, owing to the excess of storm-water, nothing in the shape of a nuisance was perceptible anywhere, and the effluent water was sufficiently purified to be by no means an unwelcome addition to the River Wandle. It would no doubt be an improvement if more of the sewage carriers were concreted, and if a larger portion of the farm was underdrained, so as to insure the more efficient filtration of the sewage through the land, but we are aware of the financial stumbling blocks which beset every sewage-farm committee, and can certainly congratulate the corporation on the success which has attended their efforts.

After the conclusion of the repast Dr. Alfred Carpenter, after paying a tribute to the usefulness of the work performed by sanitary inspectors and to the value of their Association, said that it seemed to him that if towns would more generally adopt sewage-farming as a means of disposing of and utilizing their sewage, the necessity for allotments to prevent the agricultural laborer and his family from drifting into the large towns, where he too often helps to swell the large mass of needy and indigent populations there existing, would be obviated. Owing to the enormous crops grown on sewage farms, the amount of labor required was far in excess of that required on an ordinary farm of the same size. Work, and remunerative work, was given to a large number of hands, and food—milk, meat, and vegetables—were produced in large quantities which became available for the town populations, and tended to keep down the prices of these necessities of life. The benefits derived from sewage-farming were not only local benefits but they were national benefits. Any other system of disposal of sewage but that of irrigation on land with the production of crops was waste. The Metropolitan Board of Works were now engaged in carrying out a huge system of waste. The sewage of London was to be clarified by chemical precipitation at immense cost to the rate-

payors. The precipitated sludge would be taken out in steamships to be thrown into the sea, whilst the clarified but still impure effluent would be, as now, turned into the Thames to its continued defilement. There was land suitable for irrigation in the neighbourhood of London; but the Metropolitan Board of Works preferred to adopt a system which, if perhaps less costly for the moment, would before many years place the metropolis in a dilemma compared with which its present situation would be an enviable one.

Mr. Alderman Grundy, chairman of the Beddington Farm Committee, gave some statistics as to the working and cost of the sewage farm, which have been already embodied in this matter.

Dr. H. G. Thompson, a member of the Croydon Town Council, said that ten or twelve years ago Croydon was in a most insanitary condition. Typhoid fever was very prevalent, and was often at that time spoken of as Croydon fever. Since that time very great improvements have been effected, more especially since Croydon became a corporate town five years ago. Although Croydon had a population of 96,000, it was not yet included amongst the twenty-eight large towns of the Registrar-General, but it had had for a number of years a lower general death-rate than that of the healthiest of the twenty-eight large towns—Brighton or Portsmouth, for instance. The death-rate of Croydon for 1884 was 16.4 per 1,000, for 1885 16.8 per 1,000, for 1886 14.5 per 1,000, for 1887 14.7 per 1,000. The death-rate of Beddington, in close proximity to the sewage farm, was lower even than that of Croydon. He was aware that he (Dr. Thompson) and Dr. Carpenter did not agree about notification of infectious disease, except in so far as that some form of notification was essential, but he had found the system of dual notification in force in Croydon to work well in practice, and to be free from the objections urged against it. They had now in Croydon, besides the sewage farm, the waterworks and the public baths—all belonging to the Corporation—and if they had a hospital for infectious diseases, they would have attained a most enviable pitch of corporate excellence.

Dr. Alfred Carpenter in reply to a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Alexander, Chairman of Council of the Association of Sanitary Inspectors, said that it had given him the greatest pleasure to