

most natural of all methods of treating human excrement should have been brought into use, after having been apparently unthought of for many hundreds of years; it is perhaps less singular, when we bear in mind the manner in which the children of Israel were directed by Moses to dispose of their fecal matter (Deut. xxiii. 12, 13), that the modern proposal to use dry earth for this purpose should originate with a minister of the gospel.

Instinct enables animals to know and follow the laws of nature, when reason cannot discern these laws, and the instincts of the higher animals, next to man, especially the carnivora, guide them to bury their excrement in the ground. reasoning, civilized man, in the majority of cases, leaves his to accumulate on the surface. The ancient but highly civilized Egyptians knew better than this.

The principle of Moule's *earth closet* is sufficiently familiar to every one, but I may simply say, it is made either self-acting or is worked by a handle, and a sufficient quantity of earth, previously dried and sifted, is thrown into the pail before the closet is used, and the same amount delivered over each stool as soon as voided. If the closets are properly managed, it is said the fecal matter becomes so disinfected or dis-integrated that after a time no excrement whatever can be detected in the mixture.

In Mr. Simon's Report for 1869, Dr. Buchanan gives the following summary regarding the working of this plan:—

1. The earth-closet, intelligently managed, furnishes a means of disposing of excrement without nuisance and apparently without detriment to health.

2. In communities the earth-closet system requires to be managed by the authority of the place, and will pay at least the expenses of its management.

3. In the poorer classes of houses, where supervision of any closet arrangements is indispensable, the adoption of the earth system offers special advantages.

4. The earth system of excrement-removal does not supersede the necessity for an independent means of removing slops, rain-water and soil-water.

5. The limits of application of the earth system in the future cannot be stated. In existing towns, favourably arranged for access to the closets, the system might be at once applied to populations of 10,000 persons.

6. As compared with the water-closet, the earth system has these advantages:—it is cheaper in the original cost, it requires less repair, it is not injured by frost, it is not damaged by improper substances