

must be considered together, and to my mind we have not sufficient data on hand to enable us to form a reasonable opinion. Precipitation tanks and filtration beds, as carried on in some places, in my mind, are not suitable for Toronto.

A simpler and more economical method can be found.

DR. N. H. BEEMER.

In answer to your letter of the 2nd inst., I would say that I am not in any way qualified to express an opinion on the subject of a trunk sewer for Toronto, as my attention has been directed officially to an entirely different sewage problem, namely, the disposal of the sewage of an institution limited to about one thousand inhabitants. From a long study of this question there appears in my opinion no doubt that the only adequate sewage system for an institution is the one known as the land disposal system or the intermittent downward filtration system, and in the near future one of the first duties of the government in selecting the site of any large new public institution will be to inquire, among other things, into the suitability of the soil for the disposal of sewage; indeed this question ranks in importance with that of water supply. At the London Asylum, where this system has been in successful operation about fifteen years, the question no longer is how to dispose of the sewage, but rather how can the greatest good be derived from its use. This system, which incidentally provides a most effective and valuable plan of irrigation, is simple, and after the ground has been once prepared it is easily managed throughout all seasons at a very small outlay, which is more than counterbalanced by the return from the small fruits and vegetables produced upon the ground. But this is all aside from the question which you submitted. Probably three of the most competent men to answer this question are Dr. Charles Sheard, of Toronto, Dr. P. H. Bryce, now of Ottawa, and Dr. C. A. Hodgetts, of Toronto, all of whom have devoted years of study to the subject of sewage disposal. Indeed it was while Dr. Bryce was Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health that the land disposal system was inaugurated at London.

Speaking in a general way it would appear that sewage deposited in the lake at Queen's Wharf would not be likely to pollute the water entering the intake pipe some distance south of the island, but of course that would really depend upon the deep lake currents, the exact location of which is not known to