

"4. These mineral ingredients are continually ejected from human beings and animals in their excrements, by returning which to the soil we furnish it with building materials for new crops, at the same time keeping pure the atmosphere we breathe, and the water we drink, and thus preventing epidemics and death."

F. C. Krepp, in his work on "The Sewage Question," says:

"It has appeared that human excrements have a very high value indeed, containing as they do the very minerals indispensable to the production of the new crops serving for our food, with also certain organic nitrogenous substances, besides greatly assisting in the formation of the nutritive elements of breadstuffs and other vegetables, and evolving certain fertilizing gases, which will largely increase the harvest if only made to penetrate the soil instead of polluting the atmosphere.

"The best authorities value faecal matter at 10s. sterling at least as the annual product of an average individual, giving an increased yield of crops worth £1,000,000 for every million inhabitants; a national wealth, which as yet, in most countries, is nearly all wasted or utterly lost.

"We have found that, to make good this enormous loss, guano, bones and other fertilizers are imported, and all sorts of temporary make-shifts employed, involving a continual serious drain of capital and diminution of national wealth. We have noticed besides, that the guano-beds of Peru are nearly exhausted, and have asked ourselves, What is to become of our agriculture when this foreign supply of manure is cut off?

"Again, we have noticed that, in spite of all the capital continually wasted on these poor palliatives, the soil almost everywhere diminishes in fertility, a given number of acres yielding no longer the same produce they did in former times; that this astounding fact is especially striking in the United States of America, a country acting, with regard to her agricultural interests, somewhat like a fast young heir, squandering in a very short time resources intended and sufficient to last him for his whole life.

"We have seen how bountiful the reward, if we obey the divine Laws of Nature, by applying to our agriculture the most valuable mineral or organic substances daily ejected from our bodies, and how severe the punishment if we neglect to do so, and allow faecal gases, fluids and solids to pollute our atmosphere, infect our soil and poison our wells" and other water sources.