

with a view not only to the pulverizing of the soil but to "a thorough leavening of the whole mass with fermentable matter." Hence, in order to keep the soil in a healthy state, and to "keep up its appetite for dirt" and its power for digesting or disposing of it, the one thing necessary is tillage—cultivation. In this way, with a small beginning of "humus," with a proper disposal of waste excrement upon it, it will increase gradually from year to year, as the yeast plant increases by fermentation.

As relates to disinfection in the soil: Some of the bacteria in soil are injurious to mankind; but organisms that flourish in the human body usually cease to multiply in the soil, which is unsuited for even their survival for any length of time; and "the great doctrine of the survival of the fittest holds good for them as for all other organisms." The pathogenic or poisonous bacteria must be mingled by soil cultivation with the other or saprophytic bacteria by which the former are destroyed. As was said at the annual congress in August last of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, in an address on "The Living Earth," by the President, Dr. G. Vivian Poore, "well cultivated soil, which is compelled to produce good crops, has never yet been convicted of causing any danger to health, in any circumstances.

It was further said by Dr. Poore that "he was convinced that in their sanitary arrangements they had not sufficiently distinguished between the living mould and the dead earth of the subsoil. When they perforated the living humus with a pipe and took their dirty water to the subsoil, they, as it were, pricked a hole in their filter.

"In 1848 the advice to drain was tendered with a light heart by the pioneers of modern sanitation. . . . The panacea for all sanitary ills had been and still was 'drainage,' and the only scavenger in favour was water, notwithstanding the fact that sanitation by water had for its main characteristic incompleteness. Their houses were flushed, but they paid for it by fouling every natural source of pure water. . . The Thames, the Liffey, the Clyde, the Mersey, and the Irwell were standing testimony to the failure of these great engineering schemes, and the last scheme put forward with regard to the sewage of London, to convey it all to the Essex

coast and cast it into the sea, was an experiment which, like its predecessors, might be productive of unforeseen results."

It may be regarded as a distinctive mark of man's obduracy that he is so slow to take up with this best and only natural method for his sewage disposal—this method of applying it, or returning it, in some way, to mother earth; which the cyclic character of the processes of nature plainly indicate as the only true method—in which we return again to the earth what we take from it.

All other methods, so far, it appears, have been failures; even those in which it was aimed to provide a manure. Electrolysis promises good results, but however scientific and valuable, it is not "natural," any more than the various chemical processes—the "A, B, C," the lime, or the iron—are natural. Sewage farming, where it has been understood, and so, properly carried out, has not been a failure, and we venture to predict that it must become, soon or later, the one universally accepted process for sewage disposal. Possibly time, with science, may give rise to an artificial "living earth" or humus for treating sewage, but that time is yet far away in the future.

A STRONG POINT ON INFECTIONS.—This is given in the following concise way in the Sanitary Era: There is too much carelessness in letting children visit other children who are sick before it is definitely known whether they have an infectious disease or not. Even when it is announced of the sick child that "it has nothing but a slight sore throat," the prudent mother should hesitate before sending her child to the sick chamber and into a possible danger lying in ambush. Scarlet fever and diphtheria sometimes put off their characteristic appearance and masquerade in the form of a "slight sore throat" retaining, however, their capability of communicating infection which may reproduce the diseases in their more usual and more frightful forms. The truth of this is emphasized every year in the histories of outbreaks in our own State. A word to the wise is sufficient, it is said, but we find that the world needs frequent repetition of words.