

sewer. The contents of the latter are carried off to be used for agricultural purposes, whilst the comparatively innocuous portion empties into some convenient channel, or stream, or into the sea or lake.

As I said at the outset, I shall not have time to consider the *pros* and *cons* of the various modes of disposing of sewage matter. One fact, however, disposes of the dry removal system in my mind, namely, that it cannot be carried out in the present condition of the public mind and with our present social, municipal, and domestic arrangements.

I am aware of the ignorance and carelessness which have existed, and still exist, to a great extent in the construction of drains, especially house drains; but a very slight expense is required to correct these defects at the outset; the system can be kept more directly under the supervision and control of a city commissioner and engineer (the dry system would require a few dozens of them), if endued with greater powers in supervising the construction and condition of private, as well as public, drains; the builders of houses being obliged to obtain and register a certificate of inspection. I maintain that in the sewer system, more depends upon a few intelligent heads, and less is left to the carelessness of the less educated or less appreciative portions of the community. Besides, what is to be done with the immense quantities of fluid refuse? and what will be the result of endeavouring to lessen the amount of waste water?

The subjects of

SURFACE AND SUBSOIL DRAINAGE

I shall not have time to consider. Their importance, in a sanitary point of view, in large communities is greatly overlooked. Its effects on the air we breath, and the water of our wells will be apparent to all, although too often treated with carelessness and neglect.

I would for a moment direct attention to the foundations and basements of houses, to ask whether it would not be worth while to pack and embank them with puddling clay,