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SEWAGE TREATMENT IN SASKATCHEWAN.

The Bureau of Public Health of the Province of Saskatchewan will shortly issue a number of official suggestions respecting the design of sewage treatment works for municipalities of that province. In issuing the bulletin the Commissioner of Public Health places before the people of Saskatchewan an interim outline of the more important considerations in the design of plants for the treatment of sewage. It will be found of vital and immediate importance in the conservation of the purity of water, and will doubtless be followed by others, in an aim to supply the municipal engineers of the province with a knowledge of the records and data which experimental plants on this continent and in Europe are contributing.

These suggestions, appearing on another page of this issue, are being submitted without intention of limiting in any way tendencies toward originality of design or of discouraging the incorporation of new features. To avoid mis-interpretation in this respect Dr. Seymour is making it plain that, under certain conditions, sewage treatment works designed at variance with the suggestions which are being presented, may be approved of by him, and conversely, that sewage treatment works designed strictly in accordance with these suggestions may not be approved of. It may be necessary to make such modifications as the requirements of local conditions justify.

EFFECT OF TAR ON ROAD SURFACES UPON FISH AND PLANT LIFE.

From a late reference to the subject in the London Financial News one would infer that the conclusion appears to have been arrived at on the European Continent that the use of coal tar from gasworks for the treatment of road surfaces has a number of drawbacks, not the least of which is that all vegetation in the vicinity of roads which have been tar-sprayed suffers heavily. Another of almost equal importance is that it appears to be impossible for fish to live in those streams which receive, either directly or indirectly, the drainage from their surfaces.

Engineers in America and Great Britain do not agree with the contention, and a number of facts have been tabulated which appear to show that the conclusions have been altogether of too sweeping a character. The "Journal of Austrian Gas and Water Engineers" recently published some information on the subject, and it is interesting to note that M. Griffon, a Parisian engineer, has made careful investigations as to the effect of coal tar on neighboring vegetation, and finds that it has little or no effect, thus upsetting the conclusions of Herr H. F. Fischer in this regard. As an example of this it may be mentioned that in Bordeaux one of the principal streets has been tar-sprayed for a number of years without a single tree suffering. As the point might be raised that the trees in the vicinity might have been of a specially hardy species, he is careful to mention that among them were such varieties as maples, silver poplars, lindens, and walnuts, all of which are known as being of a particularly sensitive character. At Montpellier all the macadam roads have been sprayed with gasworks tar for several years, and the plane trees in the vicinity are in much better condition than was the case before the treatment was adopted, owing to the absence of dust under the improved conditions. At Alexandria, in Egypt, the engineer responsible has found that the treatment of the roads by crude tar has had no effect on the vegetation in the neighborhood, and he gives details of many informative