

other distributing drains. Beneath the ridges parallel drains of field tile are laid some six feet deep. Soakage takes place from the ditches towards the tile drains by downward filtration. The flat-bed which lies all on the one plane is so made with a dip of about one foot in 200 that from the main distributing drain running across the end of the bed sewage can be intermittently supplied to each of the beds in succession, or according to the needs of the growing crop. The effluent from these tile drains is clear and runs off to the neighboring water course.

Such in brief is the system to be adopted, and with careful attention to details of management we anticipate from the farm the most striking, satisfactory and beneficial results, if we are to judge by the experience in other instances, which may be referred to.

In the Section on Public Medicine of the Glasgow meeting of the British Medical Association, a number of most interesting papers on the subject of sewage disposal were read. In the paper by Dr. Drysdale are some most interesting and remarkable statements regarding sewage farms. On the 1,500 acres of land irrigated at Gennevilliers, below Paris, twenty millions of cubic metres of the sewage were used in 1886. During the six years preceding, the population of the commune had increased 34 per cent., while the annual rental of land had increased from 90 to 450 francs per hectare (2½ acres). The experiment has proved so successful that the remainder of the sewage is to be utilized on 3000 acres at Achères. There have been raised at Gennevilliers 16,000 cabbages per acre, also 40 tons of beet-root per acre. The effluent was a palatable water, while irrigation and purification go on winter as well as summer. Each acre of suitable land could utilize 5,000 tons annually, producing 40 tons of mangolds, and five or six crops of rye grass each season, eight tons to each cutting. At Berlin 2,056 persons are employed on the sewage farms, which are a great success. There are 16,657 acres under irrigation, and these farms, it is stated, are so healthy that convalescent homes have been erected thereon. It is further stated that they pay an interest of 2½ per cent. on the capital required to construct and manage the works.

In a recent editorial in MEDICAL SCIENCE we referred to the work which has been carried on in

England and the United States in this connection, and pointed out what is possible for cities, where the sewage question presses most seriously for solution. We shall expect that the example set by the Government will be rapidly followed by many towns and cities in the Province; for with the now well-known system of separate sewers there is no town of any importance that would find such works a serious burden upon their finances (these being built for \$5,000 to \$7,000 per mile), while the immediate and indirect benefits, both to health in the employment of the town poor, and in supplying abundant and cheap vegetables would far more than recoup them for any apparently large temporary outlay.

INFANTILE CONVULSIONS.

THIS term for the popular so-called "fits" of children, has been still more exactly defined by Gowers, as infantile eclampsia, eclampsia having come "to be used as a name for the condition in which convulsions occur from other causes than primary states of the brain." We could not have better expressed, perhaps, an important fact in connection with this too common and serious disease, viz., that we are to look to causes other than cerebral in very many of the instances where we are called upon to treat the disease. We must, apart from exciting causes, place in a primary position of importance, heredity. What this means cannot be expressed in exact terms, but we will not be far astray if we state this condition as the result of the various inherited defects of constitution, dependent upon mal-nutrition *in utero*, affecting development of organs, both of digestion, assimilation, and elimination. Says Gowers, "The special liability of infants is probably due to the condition of development of the nervous system. At the time of birth only parts of it are structurally complete. Extensive tracts of fibres have not yet acquired their white medullary substance, and until the axis cylinders are thus clothed, the fibres have but little conducting power, although it is probable that such power is not altogether absent. But the lower centres are further advanced than the higher ones, and are, in consequence, imperfectly controlled." This statement comports most admirably with Jaccoud's statement regarding the phenomena of hysteria and hystero-epilepsy,