

only 46·1 in Salford, 44·6 in Manchester, and 45·6 in Liverpool. The difference is not very great; but in the second class—the tradesman class—the ages at death in Rutland show an average of 44·4 years, but only 29·6 in Liverpool, 28·9 in Manchester, and 29·7 in Salford. Among the third class, laborers, etc., the ages at death averaged thirty-six in Rutland, but only 28·4 in Liverpool, 24·4 in Manchester, and 22·4 in Salford. Another part of the return shows how many of the deaths were of children, how many of the young persons, and how many of adults; and here we see how, in the three towns, the excessive loss of life in infancy brings down the average age at death. Taking 1873, the last year in the series, we find that in the towns no less than 8,394 of the 19,117 deaths—that is, nearly 44 per cent.—were of children under five years of age; but in the county of Rutland only 129 of the 417 deaths, or less than 31 per cent. In the towns more than 21 per cent. of the deaths were from zymotic diseases, but in Rutland less than half that ratio; and in the towns nearly 74 per cent. of the deaths from zymotic diseases were of children under five, but in Rutland only 55 per cent.—*Sanitary Record*, July 3, 1875.

DR. BERNAYS (contribution to the subject of cremation, St. Thomas' Hospital Reports), proposes to burn the soil rather than burn the dead, and considers that a heavy clay soil would be admirably suited to compass a harmless decay, when once it has been rendered prematurely porous by burning. In this condition he considers its power of absorption of gases is very great; and this power is nearly equalled by its property of slowly burning the gases. He would, therefore, swathe the body in a well-bleached fabric, and lay it in a coffin of perforated iron plate, covered with a lid of the same material, interring within forty-eight hours at the very outside. The coffin would be lowered into a grave the bottom of which would be covered with twelve inches of charcoal; and the grave itself, one foot wider than the coffin, would be filled in with burnt ballast to a depth of six feet from the surface, the superficies being afterwards planted. He recommends coffins of perforated plate because they would be strong enough to support the earth until oxidation had resolved the coffin as well as the body. Moreover, the ferric hydrate would, he believes, aid disinfection.—*San. Rec.*

THE SEWAGE DIFFICULTY in the large towns of the United States is apparently becoming urgent. The drainage of a