

this, the excreta fall into a straight, smooth, earthenware pipe, from which they are extracted daily, or every night, by exhaustion of the air. It has not been very extensively adopted, but is believed to be best suited to low lying towns where the water-carriage system cannot be well carried out. It is said to have proved a decided success in Amsterdam, though others have denied this and declared it to be impracticable.\*

The plan of removing excreta without admixture, except perhaps with ashes and household garbage, is carried on in some towns. In Glasgow, according to Parkes, the excreta from one part of the city, containing 80,000 inhabitants, are removed every day in this form, and sent long distances. "at a profit." In some towns on the continent of Europe the excreta are removed in boxes every evening. If the removal can be made daily, says Parkes, the plan is a good one. Earth, ashes or some dry material is sometimes previously inserted, and should be always, as it is very essential, to prevent the contents adhering to the boxes.

The method of admixture of excreta, as soon as voided, with deodorizing substances, especially dry earth and charcoal, and frequent removal, appears to be, from a sanitary view, superior to all others. A number of deodorizing powders have been manufactured for this purpose, but not one of them is equal to charcoal or dry earth.

There is no better deodoriser than charcoal. Animal charcoal is best, but is too expensive. Charcoal is manufactured from peat and from sea-weed in some countries, and the quantity required for disinfecting being only from one-fourth to one-eighth that of dry earth, it is much more convenient. In the plan proposed by M. Stanford, and now in use in Glasgow, in which sea-weed charcoal is employed as a deodoriser, and when it has become impregnated with excrement, the mixture is re-carbonized in a retort, and the carbon again used, the distilled products, it is said, are sufficient to pay costs, and even give a profit. In Canada, might not abundance of charcoal be manufactured from the refuse of timber, at a sufficiently cheap rate?

The happiest proposition of all as regards the disposal of excrement appears to be that put forth some years ago by the Rev. Mr. Moule, namely, to deodorize the excrement at once with nature's great deodorizer—dry earth. It is not a little singular that it should be only about the middle of the nineteenth century of the Christian era that this certainly

\*Medical Times and Gazette, 1873.