

other so as to render the mass porous. Of course it must be thoroughly washed with water before being used.

Again, in the purification of foul gas, as well as for ventilating and deodorizing man-holes for cesspools, sewers, &c., its use is found to be unsurpassed by any other known material.

Mr. Boyd, in the paper so often referred to, says in regard to this, that he was some time previously asked to supply asbestos yarn spun in such a way as to have good capillary action, and, on making inquiry, found it was to be used for the above purpose. In describing the mode of using it, he says that there is placed over the opening rising from the sewer a hood of galvanized wire, interlaced with this asbestos yarn, the ends of the yarn dipping into a receptacle filled with liquid disinfectant, which, as they become saturated, form a disinfecting screen, through the meshes of which the gases rise, and in their passage through are purified and rendered innocuous. The system hitherto previously adopted for deodorizing sewer gas has been to cause it to rise through charcoal, but it is found that the impurities soon clog this up, and simply prevent the passage of the gas, whereas in the arrangement just mentioned (which is that of Messrs. Adams & Co., of York), the gas rises freely, and is perfectly deodorized.

There are, of course, very numerous other applications of the material which might be referred to or described, but probably those already mentioned are the most important and the most interesting; and these, it is hoped, are at any rate sufficient to indicate the great value of this singular mineral product, as well as to confirm the statement with which I started, that this is indeed one of Nature's most marvellous productions.