

is absorbed by the ashes. All kinds of slops are rigidly excluded from the closet. When it is considered desirable to screen coal ashes, they may be screened into the closet after raising the hinged seat.

In Manchester a modification of this system exists, the floor being made level and the excrement being received into a pail, mixed with the ashes, as in the Hull closet. In some instances a fixed cinder sifter is arranged at the side of the closet, which directs the ashes on to the excrement and allows the cinders to fall into a box.

Mr. Netten Radcliffe made a careful examination of the Dry Ash system in Manchester, where 6,000 such privies were already in use, and thus reports :—

"In the series of inspections I made with reference to the working of this new system, I had occasion first to observe the contrast as to nuisance between the dry-ash closet and the old midden closet. In several streets where the process of reconstruction had been only partially completed, it was possible to compare the old and new arrangements in contiguous premises. It was the contrast between open, big, uncleanable cavities, containing a greater or less amount of decomposing faecal matter, and emitting a horrible penetrating odour, and small receptacles, emitting hardly any appreciable smell, even with the nose above the privy seat, and admitting of thorough cleansing. Most significant testimony was given to the benefit of the change by some householders. Many houses in Manchester are built in parallel rows, a back passage running between the rows, and each house having a small yard, in the rear of which the privy is placed. Since the reconstruction of the privies '*it has been possible to open the back windows of the houses.*' The change, moreover, has affected beneficially the value of cottage property, and tenants are quite willing to give 3d. more rent weekly since the reconstruction of the privies for the gain in decency and comfort. Soakage of excremental matter into the soil, and its passage into and accumulation in the drains, is of course obviated by the reconstruction, and the smaller space occupied by the new closet is not an unimportant matter. The removal of the excrement is, with the most ordinary care, free from offensiveness, and if commonly conducted as I saw the operation, it may well be executed during the daytime, and the abomination of night-scavenging done away with.

"The use of cinder-sifters has been adopted by householders with a readiness which proves how accurate the corporation was in depending upon their co-operation in the working of the scheme. The high price of coal during the last two years has contributed to this good result, from the value of the cinders, in encouraging its use. It is found, also, that a class of the population, commonly believed to be unmanageable in regard to any niceties of arrangement for excrement disposal, have rapidly appreciated the advantages of the new closet and taken to the use of the cinder sifter."

The removal is made once a week by the town authorities, and the material stored under waterproof sheds, where it undergoes a gentle fermentation, and is then sold for manure. It is said to be quite as inoffensive in appearance and odour as barn-yard manure.