

Correspondence.

To the Editor Public Health Magazine.

SIR,—You have been discussing one of the most important of Sanitary subjects of late—that is, drainage; but allow me to suggest that there is one other subject that is of equal importance, and that is Scavenging. This, I maintain, is the most miserably carried out of all our civic works. I have been an agriculturist, and have always been contriving how to utilize everything for the improvement of the land, and, as every one knows, nothing is better for a compost on farm land than street scrapings. This, I see, is most sinfully wasted.

I contend that no corporation council, mayor, alderman, or city official, are capable of performing such a duty along with their other duties. They may observe it, and wish to remove it, but cannot. I recollect, many years ago, one city in particular that was noted for being the dirtiest in Europe. They had tried by one committee of council and then another to perform it, but failed. At last they appointed one man to perform this duty, who was solely responsible. They paid him well for his work, but in a few years they saw that he was making money at it, so they taxed him for the privilege of scavenging. He utilized the scraping for farm purposes, and the farmers were glad to get it. Here we have new land, and our farmers are ruining their land by not dressing it, and we in our cities are allowing them to impoverish the earth, when we might easily assist them by educating them in the use of top-dressing. Thus from one good work, two valuable results would flow, viz. : making our city atmosphere, which is now reeking with vile odors, sweet and clean; and, secondly, enriching our neighbors' already impoverished land. There is not an acre on this island that is not in want of the very refuse that we despise.

Hoping I have not trespassed too much on your space,

I am, sir,

Yours truly,

J. WESTBY.