

## Selected Articles.

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### DOMESTIC LATRINÆ.

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We have for some time been intending to say a word to our readers upon the importance, in a gynæcological light, of providing a better system of public "latrinæ" in all our large cities, and of a better arrangement of apparatus for a similar purpose in private dwellings. This is a matter, we are glad to say, which is already receiving deserved attention from the State Board of Health.

In looking up the literature of the "dry-earth system," at present so deservedly attracting public attention, we find a page or two directly to the point as specially affecting the health of women. In this connection we will not dwell upon the great value of the earth-closet, as tending to prevent the extension of cholera, the occurrence of typhoid and the like,—questions to which we may hereafter take occasion to recur. There is not a dwelling-house, a hotel, or a manufactory in the land, even if already provided with expensive plumbing work, where the closets would not be found a most useful appendage.

"Probably no single cause has had so much influence in producing the peculiarly delicate condition for which women living in the country and in small towns in America are notorious, as the discomfort, inconvenience, and frequent repulsiveness of their closet accommodations.

"In towns which are supplied with water, and in those houses of the better class which are furnished with water by private works, the use of the water-closet soon becomes universal, and its usefulness is at once recognized. But, probably, ninety-nine out of every hundred habitations in the whole country have nothing better than an unsightly privy, standing at some distance from the house,—too often barbarously foul,—and generally unapproachable except by an entirely unprotected walk, that is more or less exposed to public view, and, in wet or cold weather, is passable only at the risk of getting wet feet, dragging through wet grass or weeds, plodding through snow, or facing cold winds and storms.