

EARTH CLOSET SYSTEM.—One of the most important inventions of 1867-68, in a sanitary and social point of view, was that of the earth-closet system, invented by the Rev. H. Moule, and for the use of which in India the Government presented him with a gratuity of £500. Its merit consists simply in the fact, that dry earth containing alumina (clayey matter) will readily absorb and deodorise human excreta that fall upon it. A most excellent manure is simultaneously produced, equal in value to guano, because all the phosphates, ammonia, &c., are absorbed. In every respect, indeed, scientifically and socially, the invention is of the utmost value.

ECONOMY OF WATER.—The intense heat of July and August, 1868, dried up most of the ponds ordinarily employed to water cattle. Were such stores of water protected by trees, a vast quantity of the liquid might be preserved in the hottest summer. In forty days an unprotected pond will lose by evaporation out of 14,000 gallons, about 9000 gallons, which are sufficient to supply a flock of sheep for that period. Willows, which grow rapidly on the edges of streams, might thus be advantageously employed by the farmer to protect his standing stores of water.

DESTRUCTION OF INSECTS.—Petroleum, paraffin, and other similar oils, have been largely and successfully employed as a remedy against many insects, such as bugs, &c., that infest the household. A simple wash of the oil on the resorts of such vermin is only required.

DISEASE OF PARASITIC ORIGIN.—Dr. Richardson, of Cayuga Co., U. S., has shewn that meat, if exposed to air and moisture, quickly generates an enormous quantity of parasitic creatures, that, entering the blood of man, produce and propagate disease. According to his investigation, a few drops of human blood so affected contain more than twenty times in number the whole population of man in the world.

EFFECTS OF THE MOON, ON THE WEATHER.—From time immemorial it has been considered, popularly, that the changes of the moon affect the weather. Until very recently, however, all philosophers of the present day denied the possibility of such an influence. But in a paper read early in 1868, before the Academy of Sciences, Paris, it was shown that the moon has an influence, due to its effect on the temperature of the earth. At new moon no heat is reflected to the earth by the moon, whereas, at full moon, we receive heat-rays. Consequently, the temperature of the atmosphere, &c., is affected, and necessarily an effect on the weather must follow.

CARBOLIC ACID—A CURE FOR FOOT-ROT IN SHEEP.—Some very interesting experiments have been carried on at Victoria, Australia, in the use of carbolic acid for the above-named purpose. The acid should be mixed with some greasy substance, to make it adhere to the feet; and may be applied by means of a brush. For large flocks, troughs are filled with the mixture, and the sheep made to pass through it, by means of which the feet are effectually coated. The result is said to have been very successful.