

representatives of the different companies engaged in the utilization of sewage and preventing the pollution of rivers; and it may, I think, be safely asserted, that not only was there a larger amount of information collected and discussed than was ever brought together before, but information also of the most matured and recent kind.

The following conclusions of the Council on the results of this conference, which was held in London on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of May last, are, in my opinion, of great value as constituting a "platform," so to speak, of the present position of the "Health and Sewage of Towns," question, and a basis upon which further inquiries can be instituted and carried on :

"The Chairman of the Conference and the Executive Committee, after having carefully considered the information furnished from the various localities, as well as the facts brought forward during the conference, have to submit the following as the conclusions to which such information appears to lead :—

"First—In certain localities, where land at a reasonable price can be procured, with favorable natural gradients, with soil of a suitable quality, and in sufficient quantity, a sewage farm, if properly conducted, is apparently the best method of disposing of water-carried sewage. It is essential, however, to bear in mind that a profit should not be looked for by the locality establishing the sewage farm and only a moderate one by the farmer.

"Second—With regard to the various processes based upon subsidence, precipitation, or filtration, it is evident that by some of them a sufficiently purified effluent can be produced for discharge, without injurious result, into water courses and rivers of sufficient magnitude for its considerable dilution; and that for many towns where land is not readily obtained at a moderate price, those particular processes afford the most suitable means of disposing of water-carried sewage. It appears, further, that the sludge (precipitated sediment) in a manurial point of view is of low and uncertain commercial value; that the cost of its conversion into a valuable manure will preclude the attainment of any adequate return on the outlay and work-