

it was at once commenced on a large scale and has since been greatly improved and developed. Here, however, the collection of refuse is in large tubs, separate from the privy pails; and this again would seem to involve a somewhat prolonged accumulation. If so, it is a mistake, as next in importance to the immediate removal of sewage comes the daily removal of refuse.

It may by this time be inferred that the object of the author is to recommend the nightly removal of house refuse, and the avoidance, at any reasonable cost, of a prolonged, or large accumulation on the premises.

Up to the present time there seems to be no better mode of accomplishing this than the pail system. This plan to be successful should be carried out in conjunction with efficient drainage; because if no proper gullies and drains be provided the temptation will arise, among the poorer classes, to throw slops into the pails. This would greatly detract from their usefulness and probably cause them to become a nuisance. Hence it is certain, that the present pail system is by no means perfect, but it must be acknowledged to be a great improvement.

The question whether or not the excreta should be allowed to go into the pail is open to doubt; if it be so, by far the best mode is to have only the pail, and to allow the excreta, the ashes, and other refuse to be all put into it.

This is the least offensive, the least costly, and probably the least unhealthy process. A large proportion of the gases are absorbed by the ashes and dry rubbish, and the latter also constitute a convenient vehicle in the form of which to convey the refuse away. As a rule this also prevents the pails from becoming very dirty, and a free sprinkling of deodorising powder is generally all that is required.

Where water-closets can be provided the nuisance liable to arise from the refuse pails should be really a minimum. Unfortunately, for the lowest class of dwellings, no suitable water-closet has yet been invented, and, failing this, the next best thing appears to be the pail system.

A great objection is sometime taken

to the alleged nuisance caused by the vans conveying the pails through the streets: this applies chiefly to what is known as the separate pail system.

The ordinary ashpits are now generally cleaned out at night time, and no great nuisance, in a properly managed town, ever arises from the conveyance of the contents through the streets at night. The only nuisance is where the refuse heap has temporarily lain on the street, or where from neglect the ashpit has been allowed to remain too long a time without being cleaned out. This, on the pail system, would be abolished, and there is no valid reason, in most towns, where back lanes exist, why the contents of the pails should not be emptied into ordinary carts every night and conveyed to the depot.

Having got the refuse to the depot the next question is, what to do with it. In country towns the distance is not too great to have the depot in some suburb where it cannot be a nuisance, and there it may be allowed to remain until gradually taken for light manure by farmers.

In large towns the distance is too great and if no sale can be obtained for it, in its crude state, it should be burnt. There is now no difficulty in disposing of it in this way, as suitable destructors have been established in many towns with excellent results.

The question of cost is no doubt an important one, but the question of health is more important.

The expense evidently varies to a large extent in different districts, for instance the cost of the pail system in Bury was something like 16s. per pail per annum. This included cartage and every legitimate charge. It was not stated whether any special circumstances rendered the cost greater in Bury than elsewhere, but the author's experience is that in some other places the cost is not so great. In the borough of Tynemouth, for instance, the cost is only 7s.; in Birmingham it appears to be about 15s.; but in judging of the relative costs, it should be borne in mind that if water-closets were at once substituted for every pail closet in a district, the refuse would still cost a great deal for disposal in the aggregate.