The great difficulty connected with sewage is the admixture of storm water. Keep this out and a little administrative ability only is required, and the sewage difficulty vanishes. It is quite possible, if not easy, to be healthy and cleanly, either with or without sewers; only thoroughness must be the motto whatever system of conservancy is adopted. Moreover some trouble and expense, both continuous, will be entailed whatever system be adopted. This is a tax and a natural consequence of the requirements and necessities arising out of civilization.

A writer, Mr. A. S. Jones, in a London exchange, also says, 'Separate the rain-water, for which natural or artificial channels everywhere abound, and convey the sewage properly by the cheapest and shortest means of transport to the land, and the farmers will do the rest as they used to do long before we thought of pouring sewage and rainfall in one ungovernable torrent into the nearest brook or river without regard to consequences.

The cheapest means of transport can only be decided upon reference to local circumstances, but in every case whether by pails in a van, by pumping, or gravitation in a pipe, economy will always be secured as common-sense suggests by riviting the attention upon the separate removal of all foul matter by all means.

If the site of a town requires draining let it have it by all means, but do not complicate two simple operations by a vain effort to 'kill two birds with one stone.'

The most important contribution to our knowledge on the disposition of sewage, during last year, has been from a conference of leading sanitarians and engineers in England, under the auspices of the Society of Arts, held in London, May 9, 10, and 11, 1876, at which there were full reports and discussions on all branches of the subject. Very full returns were got from one hundred and sixty towns; of which twelve disposed of their sewage by direct irrigation, twenty-two by irrigation after treatment (subsidence of solid parts), three by subsidence, thirteen by filtration, seven by precipitation and filtration, nine by precipitation, eighty-one by discharge into streams, and in nineteen, cesspools and dry vaults were used instead of sewers. The results arrived at are embodied in the following report:— *

'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:—

'1. 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

* Eighth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts, 1876.