

lations of filth of one kind and another, they would be appalled. The man who is killed by the bludgeon, the knife or the revolver of the assassin, presents a terrible sight; the spectator shrinks and shudders when he sees the wounds which the deadly weapons have made, but the victims of poisoned air show no wounds—they are often beautiful in death. The poison has worked slowly and insidiously, and what is really a murder caused by carelessness, apathy and ignorance, is lamented over as a mysterious visitation of Providence. Every citizen of Montreal should remember that bad air, poisoned by dirt that should never have been allowed to accumulate, kills more surely and a thousand times more frequently than the knife or the bullet. This slaughter of the innocents is always going on, but it is only when some dreadful disease, such as the cholera, visits a city that men generally attribute it to its true cause, and attempt, when perhaps it is too late, to apply the proper remedy.

The information which Dr. Edwards gives regarding the proper mode of disposing of the filth of the city cannot be diffused too widely or valued too highly. His plan is to give the *excreta* the least offensive form possible,—to remove it frequently, and to give it a form which is not only innocuous but an aid in promoting cleanliness and preserving health. He would have the city adopt a system of earth closets, and he would have their contents burned before they had time to pollute the air. The chief product of the cremation, animal charcoal, is one of the most effective of deodorizers and disinfectants. It is for this purpose that it is to be used under the system advocated by Dr. Edwards and other eminent physicians and scientists. The experience of other cities and the judgment of authorities assure us that if this system were in operation in Montreal the atmosphere surrounding it would be as pure and exhilarating as that of a country district. The effects of the purification would be perceptible immediately in the improvement of the general health and in the diminution of infant mortality. Added to these great benefits would be the increased pleasure of existence which all its inhabitants would feel from breathing air uncontaminated by foul exhalations.

But this reform cannot be brought about without the active co-operation of all intelligent and public-spirited citizens. A healthy public opinion on all sanitary matters must be cultivated, so that people of all classes may see the necessity of using the best means of preserving health and preventing the spread of disease. This is a matter in which co-operation is a necessity. It is everybody's business that everybody else should keep his premises clean. It little avails A to use every precaution to have all the arrangements of his dwelling and grounds in a good sanitary condition if his neighbors B and C are neglectful of theirs, or if there are parts of the city through which they must pass or building in which they must spend part of their time and in which they, with every breath they draw, must inhale the germs of disease. This is why the aid of the law must be invoked, and those who will not do what is right and reasonable of their own accord, and for their own interests, must be made to do it for the common good.

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#### EXTRACT FROM A LECTURE ON "SEWERS AND SEWAGE"

Delivered by ALAN McDougall, Esq., C.E.,  
before

#### THE SANITARY ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO.

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"The dry earth system was the oldest sanitary system which we could trace. The disposition of the sewage of towns and cities could be treated under two heads. 1. The dry sewage system. 2. The water carriage system. Most of our country towns were worked under the first system—in Toronto to an alarmingly prejudicial degree. The numerous privies and outhouses were a most fruitful source of disease. After a time the soakage would extend to an area sufficiently large to reach the wells in ordinary town lots. These outhouses, privies, cesspits, are in proximity to dwelling houses, bedrooms, living rooms and the wells of drinking water. This was the most disgusting arrangement possible. The material while being removed was a perfect nuisance. The *Dry Earth System of Closets* was, on the other hand, the best system of dry sewage, and if properly carried out would not endanger the public health. He referred to and described under this head the ash closets and 'pail system' of Manchester and Rochdale, England and then produced a working model of

#### "HEAP'S PATENT" DRY EARTH CLOSETS,

as erected on the Exhibition Grounds last September by Mr. Wm. Heap, of Owen Sound. He had inspected these closets when in use\* and found them to answer admirably, and he understood that a number were now in use in Toronto.

\*Four of our closets were erected, and 1,128 visitors made use of them.