

drain in order to assist in purifying the same by means of oxidation, renders it a hot bed for disease and therefore equally as dangerous to the community as the privy pit.

In many parts of cities both on the American continent and the Old Country, privy pits still exist, but none so bad in their construction nor so dangerous to the health of the community as those in existence in Toronto. The greater portion in fact nearly all privy pits in Toronto are constructed as follows:

A hole from eight to twelve feet deep is dug in the ground at the lowest part of the yard if possible; the hole is lined at the sides and bottom generally with two inch lumber with joints purposely left open to allow the liquid portion of the night soil to soak away through the earth as best it can, leaving the solid matter to decompose in the pit; this kind of pit can practically be termed a "cess pit." From the position the pit occupies in the yard it is made the receptacle for the storm water, and where the earth surrounding the "cess-pit" is of an impervious nature, as blue clay, the pit retains the water and excreta where after a few

weeks it becomes a reeking mass of decomposed matter, and while where the earth surrounding the pit is of a pervious nature, such as sand, the liquid invariably percolates through the earth until it oozes through into the neighbouring cellars or basements, filling them with its pestilential vapours.

Almost all privy drains pass beneath the basement or cellar floors of the house before connecting with the public sewer, and in almost every instance the privy drain is found to be defective and as a result sewage (human excreta) in a decomposed state is found to have escaped and lodged to a depth of from ten to fourteen inches under the floors. What can be more dangerous to the health of the occupants of such a house or of the occupants of premises adjoining such a house?

The soil through which the sewage constantly percolates from privy pits and privy drains becomes sewage-soaked, and the air is loaded with noxious gases arising from such soakage, in that deromposition of such a large quantity of filth and refuse uses up the oxygen of the air in and about the dwellings. It is therefore evident that man and beast pollute their own surroundings, which is remedied

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