

difficult, when the surroundings are favorable. In large manufacturing towns or in places where land suitable cannot be obtained, or, if obtained, a heavy pumping expense is necessitated, of course some other system of defecation and disposal must be adopted. Croydon is exceptionally well situated in this respect. The sewage flows of its own gravitation, wherever required, all over the farm, and with such force as to supply motive power through tribunes to the double Latham's extractor, which would otherwise require an engine of about two-horse power to accomplish. The land is naturally of very poor quality, consisting mainly of a gravel and boulders.

The farm utilises the whole of the sewage of Croydon in a satisfactory manner, and has raised the town from being erstwhile one of the worst, into one of the best, sewered towns in the kingdom. If there be any deficit in the balance-sheet, the inhabitants can fairly look upon it as a modification and improved substitute, which it really is, for a sewers rate. The health of towns is the prime consideration, to be secured at all costs, but there can be no objection to make use of the best systems extant, and utilising the dirt by carrying it to the right place, and thereby make two blades of grass grow where one only grew before.

TORONTO, Aug. 1875.

M.D.

THE PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The common people in most country districts have a fixed belief that the doctors "take something" to prevent them contracting those diseases of their patients which are "catching." Physicians are not unfrequently asked what it is they thus take, and their unsatisfactory replies are charitably attributed to a natural unwillingness to diminish their income by keeping all their patrons in good health!

It were just as well that medical men were more prompt in offering information on preventive precautions, and in no direction were it better worth while to instruct the laity in some of the knowledge peculiar to our profession. In Great Britain, the Society of Medical Officers of Health have lately published a pamphlet containing rules for the guidance of families and persons who are in the presence of infectious diseases. Though there is little novel or peculiar in their recommendations, we believe an abstract of them will not be amiss in this connection: They first of all urge separation