

not care to quarrel with the business enterprise of the "dailies," but we must protest against their methods of endeavoring to extend sanitary knowledge and to improve the public health. Sensational preaching is touching, but not effective in long-enduring results. Appeals to all the gods make these exalted divinities tired; and they are apt, if they deign to listen at all, to indicate to unfortunate suppliants, that attention to the details of physical law, day by day, and not spasmodically, and honest enquiry into their nature is the *iter ad astra* along which said divinities are willing to aid their *devotées*.

These health enthusiasts, however, do nothing by halves. We have examined with some degree of interest, the last report of the Provincial Board of Health, in which these questions have been dealt with at some length and important facts set forth. We have not, however, observed that this report has been even reviewed in a city newspaper; much less have its facts been set forth in systematic fashion. Further, we have published in the pages of this journal, reports of two successive meetings of the Association of Executive Health Officers of Ontario, during the past year, dealing with many and important questions affecting the public health, by medical gentlemen officially engaged in the work of municipal hygiene; and yet it was not convenient, or worth the while of these important educators of public opinion, to do more than refer by a badly-prepared Associated Press despatch, to the fact that such an association in August last, held a three-days' session in Lindsay. To say the least, such treatment is not encouraging to an association of gentlemen whose work, as the "dailies" have just been endeavoring to point out, is of paramount importance, viewed either from the vital, social, or commercial standpoint. Similarly we find some papers gravely advising all and sundry Boards and officials that something ought to be done, perhaps something terrible, *e.g.*, retaliate, shut out Buffalo importations, spoil the Canada Southern and Grand Trunk Railway trade: do anything, in fact, like the Mayor of Hamelin, to "rid the town of rats." We would be the last to deprecate every honest endeavor to enlighten the public in matters pertaining to the public health, and give all, who deserve it, credit for aiding through the public press in pointing out real dangers, when menacing society; but it would be more seemly and be-

coming, if, instead of preparing sensational articles, even though founded on fact, and of some utility, our public press would systematically and earnestly endeavor to enlighten both itself and the public, as regularly—and at least as honestly—as on matters of politics and religion.

AN ONTARIO SEWAGE FARM.

IT is with much pleasure that we have learnt that, after serious consideration of the many difficulties incident to the disposal of the sewage of public and other large institutions, which for various reasons are usually situated without the towns and cities, the Ontario Government has undertaken the establishment of a sewage farm at the London Asylum, for the purpose of conforming, on the one hand, with the law against the pollution of streams, and on the other of endeavoring to develop in the Province this scientific and economical method of dealing with the sewage of towns and cities, while removing a long-standing complaint which has been made against the institution by citizens of London East against the pollution of Carling's Creek, which passes through it and London city.

We understand that the system, while essentially that of Paris, Berlin and other Old Country places, has been adapted to the requirements of this climate by the prominent American engineer, Col. Waring, of Newport. It is proposed that after the sewage from this building of one thousand or more inhabitants has been carried by house pipes and drains to one common tank, it be then sent by means of a Weber centrifugal engine and pump through an eight or ten inch pipe to a receiving tank at the field prepared for irrigation.

The method thereafter to be adopted is a combination of the broad and flat-bed system, the first being that in which advantage is taken of the undulation of the surface of the field—a sandy loam—to distribute sewage by several distributing ditches, some eighteen inches deep by four or five feet broad, and the second, or flat-bed system, is where a piece of ground is graded to an almost perfect level, after which it is divided into beds some eighteen feet broad, while between these ridges or beds are made ditches or furrows some eighteen inches deep and four or five feet wide, for receiving periodically streams of sewage like the