

a galvanized-iron pail, and a box to hold the ashes or dry earth. The one figured in the plate is rather elaborate, yet it can be made almost anywhere for three or four dollars. When the pail is filled it should be emptied directly on to the garden bed and a little earth raked over it. In two or three weeks, depending on the season, all the filth will be destroyed by the nitrifying bacteria and nothing left but a dark, rich humus. A dry closet such as this may be used in any vacant room in the house, for it is cleanly and odorless. In the absence of water service and sewers, a dry closet is the only proper thing to use.



FIG. 2.—Drain Made from a Tin Roof-Gutter.

The drinking water offers another problem for solution. Well water, the kind almost always used in rural districts, very rarely approaches purity; that it does not contain disease germs is simply because the germs have not come in its way. Sooner or later, and generally sooner, all wells become foci of disease. The safest water for rural dwellers to drink is cistern water, and if it is collected from a roof kept moderately clean, it will be clear and palatable. I know of a small town in Pennsylvania where cistern water is almost exclusively used, and, as a result, typhoid fever—the great water-borne disease—is practically unknown.

Now another point deserving our attention in country homes is the disposal of waste water from the kitchen, bedrooms, baths,