

found was occasioned by the action of noxious gases from decomposition of excreta generated within the pipe, the perforations are invariably situated above the water line. "The practical lesson to be drawn from this," observes Dr. Fergus, "is that any house no matter how well and carefully built, may become unhealthy from this source, and that wherever there are cases of typhoid fever, diphtheria, diarrhœa, &c., the pipes should be carefully inspected."

From the paper above referred to, Dr. Fergus states that the diseases arising from a defective state of soil pipes are Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Diarrhœa, Cholera, and further more that every case of the above diseases which he has recently attended, when a thorough inspection was made, he has been able to trace either to this source, or to some other form of excremental pollution. As a remedial measure he suggests the following:—

"1st. That all soil pipes should be carried up to the roofs of the houses, and left quite open to the external air; and, if possible, the soil pipe should also be used to carry off the rain water from the roof. The landlords would be more than compensated for this expenditure by the increased duration of the soil pipes.

"2nd. Water for domestic use should be taken from the main.

"3rd. Where cisterns are still in use, a charcoal cage, to be refilled from time to time, should be placed in the overflow pipe; or, better still, the overflow pipe might be carried to the outside of the house, and not pass into any drain.

"4th. All over the city, and specially at the higher levels, the sewers should be connected with the furnaces of some of our large public works. More than three years ago I proposed that this should be done, so that all the foul air from the sewers might be burned.

"But all these would be mere palliatives. I hold that the only true sanitary solution of the question is, that provision be made that all excreta and organic refuse shall be kept out of the sewers and water courses."

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OBITUARY.—It is with deep regret we notice the death of William Lovat Fraser, Esq., L.R.C.P. Edinburgh, and L.F.P. & S., Glasgow. This sad event occurred at Bussorah, Turkey in Asia, on the 28th December last, and we believe the particulars have so far not reached his family.

This promising young man was the son of Dr. William Fraser, of our city, the learned and respected Professor of Institutes of Medicine, McGill University, and we tender our worthy colleague and family a true heart-felt sympathy in their bereavement.