

WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THE DISEASE?

It is a disease, slow, filled with diabolical odors, proceeding from germinating or decaying vegetable life. It is a high time you give your mind to the cause of the disease, for it is in that locality germs of disease, and yourself and family are liable to be attacked at any moment. You think your cellar or basement is in good sanitary condition. You know that it is! Have you fairly and carefully examined the premises? Have you looked over the potatoes, turnips, eggplants, and other vegetables, to ascertain their condition? We know that potatoes, eggplants, and other vegetables, and many other most common articles, were their origin in cellars, both in this city and country; and we can do our readers no greater service than to urge them to see that at all times, they are in a dry, sweet, wholesome condition. Why should farmers and farmers' families, living in the country, away from the pestiferous vapors of cities, be so subject to attacks of malignant diseases?

There is a reason for it, and we can point it out. The family living over a cellar is more liable to be poisoned and afflicted with ill-health, than a city family living in its isolated atmosphere, but without cellar or basement filled with fermenting roots and weeds. There is far more disease in the country among husbands than there ought to be. With plenty of pure air, water, and exercise, the evil imp, disease, ought to be kept at bay; and he would be, if a better observance certain hygienic conditions were maintained. Badly conditioned cellars, small, close sleeping rooms, stoves—these are all agents of evil, and are fast making the homes of farmers almost as unhealthy as those of the dwellers in cities. Are not these things worthy of consideration?—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

**ECOLOGY OF WEATHERS.**

Dry earth is a powerful absorbent and developer of the droppings of cattle. At the Leicester meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, Moulton's earth closet formed a very attractive and popular affair during the whole period of the exhibition.

The principle of Moulton's earth closet is to utilize the soil and liquid droppings and, before they have been wasted in the atmosphere or mixed with rain water. The proposition is a very old one, it was a great favorite with the agricultural writers of last century, and is not a new thing, but actually being called into effect by small farmers who husband everything with the greatest care, and who have generally plenty of them hand to do. The principle is simple and carried out as follows:—

When two or three cows are kept, a very little straw is needed to keep them clean and give them a comfortable bed under attentive management, and with such we have kept pigs with a hardly a straw to be seen in them, the compound being similar to the produce of a Moulton's earth closet. A few fast-laid, dry earth, peat, mould, and absorbent materials of this kind, are collected during summer and deposited in the closet, which is similar to the produce of a Moulton's earth closet. A few fast-laid, dry earth, peat, mould, and absorbent materials of this kind, are collected during summer and deposited in the closet, which is similar to the produce of a Moulton's earth closet.

There is a small cesspool to catch anything that escapes, but very little is allowed to flow into it. The compound is cleaned out daily. It should rather be termed the manure making trough than a cesspool; for every time the cottager enters, the soil from the closet, which has absorbed its maximum of liquid, is thrown away into it, and then thoroughly inclosed with the earth, and a little fresh earth spread behind the cows again. The practice is thus more cleanly and free from smell than the common one. And the material is fully repaid by the results, as the manure produces a very high value. Outside, the dung-hill is surrounded with a low mound or dyke of earth, turned off rain water, and prevent the cows trampling upon it; and when the pigsty, poultry house and pigery are cleaned out, their contents are spread over the cow yard, and, before use, the best fertilizer in the experience of the writer is a compound of moist, barrowed manure and clay, thoroughly decomposed and mixed with equal parts of lime, ashes, salt, plaster and bone phosphate. No soil except a light soil will fall to produce wheat with this compound. It should be thoroughly mixed and screened, so that it can be drilled in with the wheat. It should be used in the Fall when the rains help to decompose it, and in the spring, when the soil and the grain roots are ready to take up the parts most needed for food for the wheat plant. Plant roots do not permeate manure and take them up until they are decomposed by the action of the soil. In time of great drought manure yields very little nourishment. When the moisture penetrates the soil the roots of the plants search for nourishment, and if they do not find it, they turn to the manure and gather it up.

Vegetables contain a very small proportion of lime, and lime must be supplied if the soil is deficient in it. One ounce of lime per acre will be sufficient for most crops.

A cotter of Brunsville, Maine, has within three years taken 8000 tons of manure from a little more than an acre of land.

Leached wood ashes make an excellent fertilizer for all the orchards, which are becoming a little scarce.

One ounce of lime per acre is a powerful agent in the cultivation of crops.

Manure is an excellent fertilizer of grass and grain, and should not be wasted.

### H. R. WOODS

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