

TOURS TO PROMOTE CHORAL MUSIC WORK

Only Institution Devoted To Training Choral Leaders Located At Dayton

DAYTON, O.—(AP)—The only institution in the country which has as its sole purpose the training of choral leaders who will teach the American people how to sing is established here as the Dayton Westminster Choir school. Funds for its establishment were donated by Mrs. H. E. Talbott, wealthy society matron of Dayton.

After only three years it has degenerated 200 students from 14 states. Each year the Dayton Westminster choir, composed of 60 of the best men and women singers of the school, goes on tour. Before the end of February it will have given concerts in more than a dozen eastern states.

Walter Damrosch has said that this is the finest choral organization in America, and the equal of any he has heard in Europe, even being superior to the Sistine and other famous Italian choirs.

John Finley Williamson, conductor of the choir and director of the school, started the organization as a form of recreation for the business people of the city. Today about 1,400 voices sing under Williamson and his teachers.

"Such a movement will have enormous artistic value when it reaches its full growth," says Walter Damrosch. "Many cities and towns never hear good music. While they cannot support a symphony orchestra, they could easily form a good choir, which could offer the local public the works of the great composers, which at present are sadly neglected."

CITY SEWAGE MADE VALUABLE PRODUCT
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In size since its construction, is considered one of the best of its type in existence. Known as the activated sludge system, it is of a type used successfully for years in England and Germany. In this country, Milwaukee has such a plant, considerably larger, that is regarded as a model of its kind.

Chicago is preparing to build such a plant to cost \$35,000,000. One other California city, Lodi, has a small one and Pomona is planning one. Los Angeles, which pours its sewage into the Pacific, may be forced someday to build one.

The plant on the Pasadena City farm receives about 7,000,000 gallons of sewage a day. With its present equipment, it could handle several million gallons more and as it is built on a unit plan, additions can be made at mere construction cost. The power house is ample for twice the present capacity. Other neighboring cities are considering plans for sending their sewage to the plant by

means of extension sewer lines. The principle on which the Tri-City plant operates is that of aeration, the introduction of air into the sewage working a chemical change by mechanical means. Sewage, to begin, contains septic bacteria, but the air, thoroughly incorporated into it, kills these and introduces in their place nitrifying bacteria which are said actually to digest the contents of the water, changing it into a totally different substance. Such is the scientific explanation given by A. W. Wyman, the plant superintendent.

When the sewage first enters the plant it is screened to remove all undissolved substances. Mr. Wyman says that an average of 10 per cent of the solids of the sewage is removed in this straining. This ten per cent, mostly paper, is hauled to the fields and buried. The 90 per cent of solids remaining is in the water, almost, it seems, in solution, and this flows from the straining room into the great aeration tanks. Here air is pumped in from the power plant. There are thirty concrete tanks, each seventy feet long, ten feet wide and fifteen feet deep. The sewage is circulated from one to another of these, the aeration process requiring four hours, when the work of nitrification is complete. Practically no odor is noticeable above the tanks, which are open to the air.

The water is next introduced into five re-aeration tanks of dimensions similar to those of the others. Then it is forced into five clarifying tanks, fifty by fifty feet. Here the water drops its sediment, now in the form of a grayish powder. At the bottoms of the clarifying tanks are great, slowly revolving sweeps which gather up the sediment in an outlet whence it goes to the fertilizer department. The water, now quite clear, is further treated with chlorine gas. Mr. Wyman says that 97 per cent of all the septic bacteria are destroyed by aeration, and that the chlorination kills the rest, so that the water issues from the plant so nearly pure as to be quite inoffensive. It goes right onto the farm and there is more than enough for all purposes. The surplus is run through a concrete pipe line to empty into the Rio Hondo some miles away.

Make Good Fertilizer
The sludge or sediment is run in just enough water to carry it into another building in which great vacuum drums fourteen feet long and about twelve feet in diameter slowly revolve through the mass. The vacuum draws the substance up on webbing on the drum surfaces and extracts a good deal of the remaining moisture. The sludge then appears very much like thick damp sheets of heavy paper and is peeled off the drums by big shuttle knives then dropped in sheets into an endless conveyor and taken to a dehydrator. This latter is the newest part of the equipment. Formerly the sludge was used without drying for fertilizer, that in excess of requirements being buried, but

because some odor did develop after it had stood awhile, the dehydrator was installed. This is a big cylindrical affair and provides a high temperature, causing the sludge to come out in the form of a gray powder, odorless and easily sacked.

From the records of the well-equipped laboratory maintained at the plant it is found that this substance contains approximately 70 per cent organic matter, of particular value in making humus for Southern California soils; an average of 6.16 per cent available nitrogen, a little over 2 per cent phosphoric acid and about one-fourth of one per cent potash. It is regarded by many users as of decided worth and Mr. Wyman states that it recently has had a market value of \$35 a ton.

The plant turns out from 30 to 40 tons of wet sludge every 24 hours, and from this the finished fertilizer is ordinarily produced at the rate of from seven to eight tons a day. The plant works 24 hours in the day and employs about 30 men.

Some Cost Figures
The Tri-City sewage disposal plant cost about \$1,000,000, as it stands today, and its maintenance is given at about \$125,000 per annum. As it serves about 125,000 persons the annual cost or sewage handling for the three cities figures about a dollar a year per capita. However, there are the items on the credit side of the ledger.

Of course, the farm uses a large amount of the fertilizer. The past several hundred tons of it were sold at wholesale, although the plan is to develop the sales direct to the consumer. Some of the inoffensive residue is still buried, but it is the hope of the management that enough demand for the dry fertilizer can be developed to enable the city to dispose of all of the sludge in this form. The market for the sacked product is expected to grow as its merits become better known, and Mr. Wyman states that at \$35 a ton, there could now be enough output to bring in around \$300,000 a year. Figuring in the value of fertilizer and water used on the farm, there is possibility of a return, he says, that will go far toward making the plant self-supporting.

Regardless of economic considerations, the plant seems to offer the most satisfactory method of disposing of a city's sewage that has even been found. Almost every week engineers of other cities come to inspect the workings of the system.

The disposal of sewage is a problem of the utmost importance for any city—the larger the city, and the faster it is growing, the greater the problem. It is becoming more and more evident that dumping sewage into a river, or shooting it into the ocean is not a satisfactory method of solving the difficulty. The former inevitably leads to contamination and the possible breeding of epidemics. Nor does the sea prove an ideal place for sewage.

Airplane passengers flying out over the Pacific recall that from the great Los Angeles outfall sewer a noisome fives of sewage meanders through the blue ocean waves for miles offshore. It does not dissolve and vanish into the depths by any means, at least not for a long time, and it is always flowing. At the whim of shifting currents and stormy winds it may, and sometimes does, visit the beaches along the Southern California shoreline. Not a pleasant thought for the coast dwellers or the folk who find joy in surf bathing. Already there may be heard the rumbling of community, state and federal discontent over this unwholesome state of affairs.

The aeration system, with proper equipment like that on the Pasadena City farm, obviously robs the sewage of its offensive character and turns it into something that not only can be more easily disposed of, but which can actually be made use of. It also helps conserve water, an important consideration in this part of the country. Los Angeles may some day thank Pasadena for having pointed the way to the solution of one of its most trying municipal problems.

(The Los Angeles Times Farm and Orchard Magazine prints with the article above some pictures made from photographs taken on the Pasadena city farm, one showing a bumper crop of potatoes being harvested with mule-drawn diggers, and one showing corn growing on the farm, more than twice the height of a man's head. (How tall the man is, is not shown.) One important part of the operation of the sewage treatment plant, for the Pasadena district, is the fact that the water purified, does irrigation duty. One of the first big cities in the world to scientifically treat its sewage was Berlin, Germany, as large as Chicago. The city of Berlin has large municipally owned gardens, and the sewage is treated and used for fertilizer there—and the city of Berlin gets a profit from the whole operation: a net profit above the large cost.—Ed.

ALLEGED MIRACLE FOUNT DRAWS JEWS

News of Discovery Spread Far and Wide; Thousands Visit Place

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Discovery in the town of Ronsperg, in the Bohemia Forest, of a "miracle" health-giving fountain has caused a stampede of the devout to the scene in search of relief from pain and misfortune.

According to an almost blathered inscription on a stone near the wonder-working fountain, "Baalcitem, founder of the Chassidic sect of Jews, immersed himself here 300 times, in the days of the rigors of the winter of 1744, and found the waters heal all ills, relieve all evil and restore fecundity to sterile women."

News of the discovery has spread far and wide, and an unending chain of thousands of pious Polish Jews, among them the lame, the halt, the unhappy and the blind, are journeying to the spot on foot, horseback, carriage or automobile.

Tens of thousands of bottles of the water are being carried away by the believers. The municipal authorities are being petitioned to build a hotel near the spot to accommodate the throng of pilgrims.

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