

SEPTIC TANKS AND SEWAGE.

What Health Authorities Have to Say on the Subject.

The sewerage question, which is always an important one, relating as it does to the health of every community, is coming more and more to be solved by means of the septic tank in small cities and towns, it is said. Much has been said about this subject and the experiments which have been made have proved its practicability according to health authority as a perfectly sanitary method of disposing of sewage. The septic tank has been used in Oregon for several years both on private and public properties. One was installed at the Oregon Blind School at Salem in 1903 and two are in use at the State Insane Asylum at Salem. Wherever used they are giving excellent satisfaction and will probably come into common use throughout the state within the next few years.

At the request of the Oregon State Board of Health, Dr. E. A. Pierce, of Salem, wrote a treatise on septic tanks which gives some valuable data on this subject. In describing the process he says: "In the septic tank system the sewerage is passed slowly through the tank, out of contact with light and air, allowing time for the organic matter to be broken down by vegetable organisms. All the results of the process are harmless to animal life and free from odors."

Cement, it is stated, is the best material to use in the construction of the tank.

"A pit of the required size should be dug allowing about four cubic feet to each person, plus the thickness of the walls of the tank. A wooden frame corresponding to the size of the tank should then be set in the excavation after the bottom has been prepared and the cement poured around the outside and allowed to harden, leaving the walls from six to eight inches thick. If the tank is for a small number of persons I would suggest that a partition extend across the inside of the bottom of the tank, 22 inches high and four inches thick. The wooden frame should be removed as soon as the cement is hard enough to permit. The top may be covered with an arched roof of cement with a man-hole, or with planking, and if the tank is of sufficient size it may have simply a shingle roof. If the tank is large, say 30 feet long, I would suggest that a baffle board be placed eight feet from the inlet, extending from the bottom of the tank to within 18 inches of the surface, and I would have another baffle board like the former six feet from the outlet. The pipe leading to the tank should be at least four inches in diameter, with an elbow extending 18 inches below the surface. One of more intakes or outlets should be used, according to the size of the tank. They should be on an exact level. The pipe leading to the tank should have just enough fall to convey the sewage, avoiding as much as possible the disturbance of the tank."

—Oregonian

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The court, on petitions from districts
Nos. 1 and 2, granted permission to levy
special tax.

The 1905 tax roll was accepted.
Several plans for the bridge across the
Nehalem river were submitted and taken
under consideration by the court, and
up to the time of going to press they
had come to no conclusion.