CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF

TO THE EDITOR.

Sin,-Having viewed with interest the stage the City Council are at present taking with regard to the sunitary condition of the city, in inviting tenders for the removal of sight-soil under the "Double Pan System," word regarding the advantage of such aystem may be appreciated by the majority of householders and ratepayers, who are re-Ment within the city boundaries, and who

Exercial matters are at the present time. ed of by the single pan and cess-pool on desirous of rendering the double service lsery for all but the more distant parts of the city. Concerning the value of this reerm, there is, or should be, universal agreement. The nuisance attendant upon the suppyting of the pans and coss-pits into the plant cart on or pass to the premises and light eart on, or near to the premises, and that arising from the uncleaneed condition of to pass are done away with. In addition the integrity of the pans in use is assured, a sitter which, owing to unwillingness to report, indifference, or negligence in the case of the single pan and cess-pool system on the part of the nightman, caunot be obtained. h pan in the double service comes in fact or direct inspection, and defects are at remedied, so that middensteads (the a beneath the cent) do not acquire the thy condition which is of such frequent so under the single service.

At least half the houses in the city have no drain, and such house drains as exist are come. In fact there is stagment sewage on and but a large proportion of the outdoor misses, on vacant land, and by the sides many or most of the streets. The fouling of the streets and the streets are found to the streets. soil, and consequently of the atmosphere oful consideration on the part of the

Elquid refuse should not be allowed to took into the soil of outdoor premises unless to be at a distance from habitations, and into cell kept under cultivation. If the outdoor premises be not of sufficient area, and if it be impracticable to attend regularly to the cultivation of the soil, liquid retuse sheald not be disposed of thereon. Neither should it be allowed to soak into the soil by the as of the streets, or to pollute the water er the bed of any watercourse. If it be im-practicable to deal with it on the premises under the conditions above named, it should be conveyed over impervious courses, if not in impervious pipes away from habitations, and then be innocuously disposed of. For finally disposing of liquid refuse in inland districts irrigation and earth filtration are Feetual and inexpensive methods, and eithe the ene or the other should be adopted.

Surface pollution by liquid refuse is, more ver, aggravated in Perth by want of service emoving house refuse and excretal ittered about the outdoor premises, and so, it is stated, being in a large number of cases setually disposed of in or near the precincts of the house. The present single pan or box system, unaccompanied as it is by a properly managed nightsoil service, cannot be regarded as a material advance on the cesspool system, as full of danger as the latter, but the mode of disposal of the material remains in a large number of cases practically as it was. A double pen system, with a house refuse service, should therefore be at once instituted for this city, and the pan contents, as also the house refuse, should be innocuously disposed f. The fact that such services have already seen and are, at the present time, being adopted in the other colonies and with the cut results, may serve as encouragement to indertake so necessary and salutary a work here. For innocuous disposal of the night-soil it is desirable in the first place to cleanse the pane by steam or water, a process which sally carried out; and in the second place to sicate the nightsoil by heat, or to bury it. he effected in a destructor, or, where open ad suitable for a depôt is to be got, by berial. If it be deemed advisable to the exercise a trench of a foot and a half wide and a foot and a half deep should be dug, the yer not deeper than four to six inches, and the whole of the soil removed in digging the tremch should then be lightly replaced. The tremches should be at least six inches spart and in length they should not exceed five yards; or, in place of digging a trench a feet and a half deep, it may be dug rather more an one foot deep, and the soil at the bottom anch be then loosened with a pick-axe. In this case the exercita introduced should met be more than sufficient to at once soak into the loosened soil.

Concerning the necessity of abolishing as far as practicable all sources of surface n about dwellings, there can be no question. Speaking broadly, that the waste products of life are inimical to life; very many of them are actively poisonous, even in the smallest doses, while not uncommonly they contain germs of fatal diseases such as pphoid, typhus, and gastric fevers, and dip theria. Otherforms of organic refuse are deleter oid, typhus, and gastric fevers, and dipious to health by virtue of the fact that not ealy do they afford nourishment for certain se germs, but, in the process of their disintegration, they give rise to the formation of poisonous bodies. Disposal of organic r, which may indeed contain germs of ease, in the soil about dwellings is a means of distributing in that soil active poisons and of converting it into a conserva-tory, if not into a breeding ground, for dise germs, poisons and germs alike readily invading the atmosphere and the foods about and in those dwellings, unless care be exersed in the mode of disposal of the organic at frequent intervals and innocuous dispos of these matters are, in fact, main functions with which at authority, constituted for the purpose of guarding the Public Realth, should be concerned. To carry out such removal there need to be provided regular and otive nightsoil and refuse services, and, in erder to dispose innocuously of the materials soved, there need to be provided means for parifying the sewage and for burying or otherwise properly treating the nightsoil and refuse. It is, however, important, that the council, while carrying out this very necessary and saintary reform, should see that in every case provision is made so that the pan cannot be introduced into the middenstead (the place beneath the seat) in any position which permits of fouling of the middenstead, or of the exterior of the pans. To this end it is necessary that the orifice in the scat be well back, that the upper edge of the pan be but a very short distance beneath the seat, and that nides be introduced into the middenstead so that the pan cannot be inserted to the right or left of its proper position. Any closet can thus be fitted at a trifling expense. It is also necessary that the floor of the middenstead be raised about three inches above the level of the surrounding ground, and be so aleped to the socres door as to admit of being readily cleansed; that the middenstead and closet be thoroughly ventilated, and that

Under the " Double or Dual Pan System," the full pans are taken away hermetically scaled by sirtight lids, in a covered cert specially constructed to hold about sixty of these pans, a clean pan, thoroughly disinfected, being substituted for the one taken away. The contents of this latter pan are emptied into treaches at the depôt and buried, the pans being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected there. This work being car ried on, at every house, twice in each seven days, tends to ensure the health of the residents in the locality by freeing the air from the noxious vapours arising from uncovered

night-soil. Certainly, the night-soil service, as carried on at the present time, is a menace to the health of the inhabitants in and about the city, and radical improvements in it are argently required. Farther extension of the double service is to be encouraged, not only because the gross nuisances attendant upon the single system, whereever conducted, need to be done away with, but also because the contents of ceespans on the single system, and cosspools are being disposed of in the most objectionable ways.

Yours, etc. PREDERICK G. RENOU, C.E. Sanitary Engineer.

NOTES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

The time seems to be approaching very rapidly when, as a matter of course, every German princeling will take unto himself a morganatic wife. Last month the announcement was made that the Duke Louis of Bavaria has once again taken upon him such fetters as a "left handed marriage" imposes, and the Prince Regent of Bavaria gave his san to the matter by forthwith raising the bride, a young and pretty, descesse, to the rank of nobility by changing her somewhat common-place name of Antonio Barth into that of Madame von Bartelf. It seems as if the "marriage" was the consequence of a case of "love at a first sight," for it was only a few days ago since Francisia Barth made her first appearance on the stage of the Munich Hof-theater. Duke Louis's first morgantic wife, who died just a year age, was Baroness Wallersee, which emphemiatic name was Wallersee, which suphemistic name we evolved out of her maiden name of Mendel. An imprompts comedy took place on the 23rd Movember, at Boulogne Harbour, where representatives of the London, Chatham and Dover and South Eastern companies sough to outwit each other in order to gain possess ion of the Grand Duke Sergius of Bussia who was awaited at Boulogue by mail steamer to take him to England. The Grand Duke Sergius left Paris by the Folkstone express, some inconsistent order issued at headquarter the steamer of the Calsis-Dover line wa directed to proceed to Boulogne, and instead of despatching a large steamer to meet the Queen's guest, the company's superintendent at Dover sent the Maid of Kent, their oldes vessel which was launched in 1861. The South Bastern company, determined not to accept this affront, had, meanwhile, pro-vided a special steamer of their own. On the arrival of the train the company by a clever ruse succeeded in kidnapping Prince, net even so exalted a traveller the Russian Grand Duke being sacred on French soil from the enterprising officials of competing English railways. Mr. H. Farmer and his son the South-Eastern representatives, effected the capture of the Grand Duke, and he and his suite embarked on the Albert Victor amid some excitement. The English and Bussian vice-consuls were present. Confusion followed when Captain Blomfield, the Chatham Company's Agent went absard to persuade the Grand Dake that the other boat had been sent expressly by Her Majesty. His Imperial Highness disembarked and appeared somewhat pussed by the manouvres. Being informed that the Beslogne and Felkstone was the shorter and quickest route, and that the Queen's equerry with a special train was awaiting him at Folkestone the Grand Duke decided to travel by the Albert Victor, which left immediately hardly goes to prove the reported reppreche-ment of the English companies, in spite of the negotiations as to the projected amalgama-

The premoters of the Metropolitan (London Outer Circle Bailway, which was sanctioned by Parliament for the second time in 1888, and for the construction of which an extens was granted last year, have decided to apply to Parliament for leave to abandon the whole of the already sanctioned railway, and to wind up and dissolve the incorporated company. The railway was to have begun by junctions with the Great Western and Metro-politan District railways at Railing and from hence was planned so as to pass through Kingsbury, Hendon, Finchley, and Colmey Hatch to its termination by a junction with the Great Bastern railway at Tottenham. The total length of this line would have been just under 19 miles, and junctions were proposed along the reute of the main line with the Metropolitan, the Midland and the Great Northern railways. The share and loan capital authorised was £1,600,000.

An Actors' Association was recently formed in Lorden, and a meeting of the association was held last menth at which the draft of an agreement, designed to protect actors agains agreement, designed to protect actors against unfair demands by managers was adopted. Mr. Henry Irving, who presided, justified his position by remarking that he was "actor first and manager afterwards." "The new agreement," he said, "would not in any way affect fair dealing managers, different clauses being inserted to meet different conditions. He once engaged a friend of his a very distinguished actor. 'Yes,' the latter said, 'I shall be delighted to come to your theatre, but I must make certainstipulations in my contract with you—that I shall have six towels every night in my dressing room, that these towels shall have been three hours before a fire when I arrive, and that my panbefore a fire when I arrive, and that my pantaloons shall be before a blasing fire for the whole day. There are other little things we must discuss before I sign.' To these conditions," Mr. Irving continued, "he was well pleased to agree. Certainly he was on the rack for 24 hours about those pantaloons and towels, but he rejeiced to say that his good friend got through with only a temporary fit

The value of English criticisms on Austra lian affairs may be gauged by the intelligence displayed in an announcement by the St. James' Gazette that "a novelty in strikes is said to have occurred at a New Zealand school at Broken Hill (?). The boys, it is stated, struck in a body and ceased their Another recent English publicalessons." tion deplores the destruction of South Australian yineyards by the rock wallaby, " a useless plant which overruns the plantations and whose fruit is of no value whatever the farmer." A prominent New Zualand politician is said to have once got into very bad repute in England for keeping a lot of wallabies ou an island. The belief was entertained that he had inaugurated a cort of harem, the idea being that a wallaby was a

The late Queen Olga, of Wurtemberg has left a fortune which is estimated at about £1,300,000, and the bulk of it is bequeathed to her niece, the Grand Duchees Vera Constantinovna, widow of the late Duke Eugene of Wartemburg, with remainder to her twe as least, the floor of the middenstead be rendered impervious.

Of Wurtemberg comes in for about £100,000, and their is a large least.

native woman.

gacy to his daughter Princess Pauline. The jewels of Queen Olga, which were of great value, are left principally to the Grand Duchess Vers, with remembrances to the Queen of Wartemberg, the Grand Duckess of Meeklemberg-Schwerin, and the Duchees of Edinburgh.

Moralising on the "guessing competitions which were started by some London weekly papers, but were recently stopped by the authorities, the St James' Gasette of 24th November says:—"To say one who habitually looks at the tit-bit players it is marvellous that there should still be any unempleyed. Why do they not all set to work to win the tempting prizes offered by these amazingly popular papers? It is no longer a matter of gaining a guinea by counting the number of commas in the Bible, or finding out how many the's' there are in the New Testament. No; the reward of the smart guesser is now counted by tens, twenties and even seventies and may quite conceivably reach thousands.

The thing is simplicity itself. A paragraph is printed with the last word blank. You fill in a coupon with what you think should be the right word, inclose a shilling, and sleep badly for a week in feverish expectation. The whole of the shillings thus obtained are divided among the winners, and how enermous the reward may possibly be is suggested by the astonishing fact that a week or two age more than 70,000 people sent their shillings to one paper alone. Last week the same paper received more than 60,000, shillings, and the reward received by each of the 48 winners exceeded £70.

THE LABOUR TRAFFIC IN THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

THE CRUISE OF THE LABOUR SHIP

San Francisco, Oct. 16.—The revelting story of the mission of the slave-trader Montervat, is detailed in two pages of the Messeiner this morning, by Mr. W. H. Brom-age, a reporter who shipped aboard this. steamer. His narrative is substantially as follows :-

The steamer Monteerrat is a slave ship. Yesterday she dropped anober in San Fran-elsoo Bay and ended a six months' voyage. She sailed through the Golden Gate bound outward on April 23 last. I was aboard her as a sallor before the mast. Acting under instructions from the editor of the I had applied for a borth when the vessel was putting out, and after much difficulty was taken on as an "able scaman," and after-ward promoted to be quartermaster.

We had on board the King of Butaritaci and his small company of attendants, who and his small company or attendants, who knew the object of our journey, and who had taken passage with us for home without the slightest fear for their personal safety and without camment upon the object or the outcome of the voyage. In the hold were stored provisions sufficient to feed 500 men for three months.

At Manaimo we took on coal to last for the same length of time, and then the Montserrat turned her prow to the south-westward and the real journey was begun. No particular incident occurred to relieve the monotony of the journey until we reached Butaritari on May 26, where the king was warmly received by his people. He was accompanied ashore by Captains Forgusen and Blackburn of the

We lay at Butaritari ten days and secured three labourers, one of whom was an inter-preter who knew the tengues of a dosen islands and could speak English. A white man was also employed there, Peter Garrick, whose usefulness had been demonstrated in numerous journeys with other slave-traders. He boasted that during his stay of fifteen years in the islands, he had taken by force and sent to various places in other parts of the world,

NO FEWER THAN NINE HUNDRED NATIVES. "Niggers" do not always leave their wavewashed home in the Southern Seas to go into unknown countries, of their own will. Where are not sufficient to get them aboard the els, other means are used, and Garrick

We next went to the island of Maraki. another of the Gilbert group, where our first draft of "blackbirds" was made.

The first step to be taken was to visit the king and get his vermission to take off the natives. Then the missionaries must be soon, because they generally had great influ-ence with the people.

Capt. Forguson and Garrick presented thouselves to the king. Bending in mook humility, they crept on hands and knees cross the floor to where His Highness sat, and the guards brought mate for them to sit upon. The natives came swarming from all directions, and crowded around the opening so thick that daylight was almost shut out. Garrick presented Ferguson to His Majesty and saked him if he did not remember him. The remark was hardly a suggestion from Ferguson, for he has to account to the king for the 400 fleekbare bones, that are

LYING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA. where the "Tahita" was found, must down ward. Ferguson was the genius who engi-neered that fearful and fateful enterprise. "This man," said Garrick, " was here last year, and took some men away to Mexico on the 'Tahita."

The King looked at him a moment, and slowly said: "He took my people away, and they were drowned."

Garrick looked hurriedly at Ferguson "Tell the King his people were not drewned, not one of them. They are working in Mexico, and are well and happy. How could I be here now if the ship 'Tahita' was lost."
"I think you lie," said the King. "Black Tom and many others say the 'Tahita' turned ever. If my people are in Mexico why dea't I hear from them? Before they left here they promined to write to me and my friends, and they are all good people, and

do not lie. Did the 'Tahita' turn over? "Yes, she did capsise, but was seen by a passing vessel that brought the news to San Francisco, and a man-ef-war was sent out and we were all picked up. I got another vessel, and we continued the voyage and arrived safel; in Mexico. The people have been there one year, and in two more years

their time will be up and they will return." This argument seemed to convince the king. At any rate it satisfied the crowd outside, who showed their gladness at the supposed safety of their friends and relatives by shouting and claping their hands in gles.

The king was finally persuaded to allow his people to leave if they desired to, but

WOULD NOT ADVISE THEM TO GO. Straight from the king's residence the pair went to the missionary, and to him the same story of life and happiness to the departed natives ou the ill-fated "Tahita" was told It was an easy matter to win over the missionary. He only cared for the spiritual welfare of the poor blacks; their bodily discomforts seemed of little consequence to him On being assured by the slavers that nuns and priests had been provided for them on the plantations at Guatemala he offered no resistance to the traffic.

Fergusen's next point was to get the natives drunk. When this was accomplished he did, he was it was easy to get them to listen to his tales mother, who was

of riches and happiness in far-off Guatemala. Then the real work of securing natives was begun. Garrick and the native interpretor went ashore every day. One worked at the north end of the island, the other at the south end.

Ferguson employed his time with white traders, who informed him that the best way to proceed was to get all the young people that he could; and then their parent and relatives would accompany them rather than part with them.

One of the traders induced four boys to leave beme, and looked them in his house to await the arrival of a boat. That night the best was sent ashore, and the men in charge were told to get the boys and pull right away. When the men reached the bonse only one boy was there. The other three had become alarmed and jumped through the window. The trembling prisener was hurried into the boat and taken to the ship, where, in fear he signed.

STOLEN PAGE HIS PARENTS.

His parents soon missed him and came out to the ship, demanding his release. They he had signed he could not be given up. In tears the mother asked to see her boy. She was refused, Eerguson fearing that she would persuade him to jump overbeard at night and

Crouched down in the boat the bereaved mother pulled her hair in agony and cried out in pitcous tonce. The father of the boy steed by in stelld silence. The mother renewed her entreaties, but the same refusal

was again, gives.

The next day the beat came alongside, and the mother and father, rather than stand on the shore and watch the ship go down behind the hostson to a far-off port and unknown world with their boy aboard, signed the articles and joined their fate with his.

The "blackbirds" were in great glee when the father and mother signed, and thereafter that dissented their beat after the standard of their lates.

they directed their best efforts towards scenning the young boys of the island. Time and again, when a boy had come aboard, deand again, when a boy and come nounce, ev-laded by some representation of Garrick and his men, we wenld see from the decks the mother studing on the sand, holding her-arms out towards the vessel, bewaiting with the agony of a breken heart, clamouring to be taken abourd rather than lose her child, but held back by her husband and friends, who were powerless to resone the boy, but who could present her going to a similar fate. These scenes were or over again at every island which the " Mont-serrat visited."

It may soom possilier that the traders should be willing to use their influence to get rid of the people who are their customers, but it was explained to me very readily by one of the traders himself, who said:—

"The labour vessel is a Godsend to the

traders. We would like to see you take half the population away and keep them away. They eat like homes, and every but they eat is one less for the traders. They patch their clothes so often that sometimes we see a cost with nothing but patches. They buy very little, the principal thing

being tobacco.
"I remember labour vessels coming here years age and taking them away by the hundreds. That was the time we made money, raising the price of everything 100 per cent., and tobacco even mora, because that is a thing we cannot do without. You

oan depend on the traders all through the group to help you."

We had been fourteen days at the two islands and had only secured forty-three natives. The next island visited was Apiang. Garrick's home was here, and as he was well known Ferguson was certain that he would get at least 150 natives to sign. But he was disappointed, for Garrick refused to work around his own island, and after a stay of five days in which the scenes at Maraki were re seated over and over again, we seemed forty

From Apiang we miled to Panama. The British man-of-war "Boyalist" happened to be in the harbour there and they came a beard enquiring the business of the "Ment-serrat." The "Royalist" was badly in need of soal, and Captains Fergusen and Black-burn were glad enough to deplete their own stere in order that enquiry might not be too closely made by Capt. Davis, of the "Roy-alist." We remained in the harbour four days, and in that time six labourers came

UNDER THE BYS OF THE MAN-OF-WAR Ferguson was afraid to follow the methods oh he had put in practice at other islands. At Miniani, the fifth stopping place, another interpreter was employed, a Mr. Murdoch, who was a well-educated man of long residence on the island. He had never visited Mexico, and thinking Ferguson as truthful as himself, believed everything that was told him about the place. He was informed that his duties were to collect the trip, at the expiration of which he could either work on the plantation as interpretor or not, just as he saw fit, but in any case he would not be required to sign articles. If he did not like the country he would be free to return to the island.

Placing his business in charge of other parties, he worked night and day for one week and secured sixty-eight men and wemen, the natives having every confidence a his promises.

From island to island the "Montes travelled, going to Tapoutoued, Peru, Nuku-nan, Aroroi and Tamona securing in batches a total of 388 men, women and children from

Before leaving Nukunan two men attempted to escape from the ship by swimming ashore. Some one saw them in the water swimming rapidly towards the beach and gave the slarm. Fergueon rushed up from is room with a rifle and

FIRED AT THE MAN PARTHEST AWAY.

The bullet out the water a few inches from his head. Turning round and seeing Fergu-son with the rifle still to his shoulder the man threw up his hands to imply surrender, and both swam back to the ship.

After that a strict watch was kept to pre vent any of the natives from leaving the During the voyage between the islands the

tanks were kept filled with water and the condensers were going night and day. native can no more do without a plentiful supply of water than he can without a plentiful supply of air. The first thing to do after the ship stood out to see was to close the tank and put a limit on the water supply. The tubes were screwed into the tank about the water level, which on the inside reached to the bottom of the tank and on the outside protruded a few inches. When people wanted drink they sucked the water through these

When the little ones cried for water the mother had to suck the water up through the tubes and empty it from their mouths inte a cup and give it to the children. Their complaints were not heeded.

One little fellow was noticed one day going to the tank frequently, filling his cup by sucking the water into his mouth and then going below. Watching to see what he did, he was noticed giving it to his TOUGHT, TO COME ON DECK.

When a rain equall came it was hailed children would run up and down the deck and act mad, calling up those who were sleeping below and bringing their cups, plates and coccanut-shells and bottles to natch the water.

Sometimes the squalls would last fer bour and they would stand there, chilled through to the bone in the rain, such was their desire to be rid of the filth that covered their

The "Montserrat" left Samana, the last island, on the 9to of August, and on the 11th of September dropped anchor in the port of San Jose de Guatemala. Here the natives were parcelled out to the planters, the captain receiving 100del, for each slave, and and they were bundled off to wear out their

The parting of the people from one another was piteous in the extreme. Men clasped other round the neck and cried like

THE " WESTERN MAIL.'

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14.

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