

**A DISCUSSION OF THE  
PREVAILING THEORIES  
AND PRACTICES RELATING  
TO SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

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A Discussion of the Prevailing Theories and Practices Relating to Sewage Disposal by  
Wynkoop Kiersted

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## PREFACE.

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THIS discussion of questions relating to sewage disposal is prompted by reason of the disregard with which these questions have been treated in this country until very recent years, and the prominence lately given to the method of sewage disposal by land. It deals rather with the principles embraced in the prevailing methods of sewage disposal than with methods of mechanically treating sewage.

The more thoroughly these questions are discussed the more generally will they be understood and the more speedily effectual will become the efforts that are directed to the devising of practicable methods of finally and inoffensively disposing of the sewage of populous districts.

We have in nature conclusive evidence of the existence of a natural process of purification of polluted

waters. This process is of such a character that it can be utilized in the purification of sewage; and with our present methods of sewerage and drainage it must become the foundation of any successful method of sewage disposal.

The author's aim in this discussion is to set forth this natural process of purification together with the various considerations embraced in questions of sewage disposal in a simple and practical manner.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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IN nature there is a great storehouse of energy, a beautiful exhibition of harmonious motion among countless bodies, and a wonderful manifestation of balanced forces. We observe there that laws are few, simple, and immutable. The energies, forces, and processes of nature may be utilized by man in various ways, and the extent to which man can direct them to his own ends is a measure of his intellectual and material advancement. Philosophers and scientists have labored to develop and establish the principles involved in natural laws, and to formulate them in a manner to be attainable by all. With every new facility for analyzing nature they have discovered some new principle of life or of force which serves to