

With regard to the agricultural value of the earth when once used in the earth-closet, Dr. Hawksley gives the following analysis, by Mr. Evans, analytical chemist, Leadenhall-street:—

Since writing the above, Mr. Evans has sent me the analysis of another specimen of the product on which the earth was once used only, taken from a vault and dried, the constitution of which he thus reports.—

Organic matter . . . . .	22.00	per cent.
Soluble Phosphate of Lime . . . . .	1.10	”
Alkaline Salts . . . . .	4.10	”
Nitrogen . . . . .	0.65	”
Potash . . . . .	1.10	”
Alumina, Sand, &c. . . . .	70.75	”
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	100.00	

And he estimates the above at 30s. per ton, with a note that the earth in this sample was in excess, and that ordinarily the value would be from 40s. to 60s. per ton. This second analysis considerably strengthens the argument for the value of the product.

#### *A Derby Town Councillor on the Treatment of the Insane.*

Philanthropists have often a hard time of it in defending the cause of progress against the local orators of town councils and boards of guardians. Indeed, they sometimes realise, with a weary sense of thankfulness, the promised Conservative reaction, when they regard the conduct of some of those whom accident has hitherto placed in municipal or vestry authority. To these sorrowful illustrations the Derby Town Council has furnished a prominent example. At their last quarterly meeting the subject of the proposed Borough Lunatic Asylum was discussed. Mr. Councillor Pool made the following remarks:—

*Mr. Pool asked how it was there were more lunatics now than formerly. He was strongly inclined to think it was owing to the good treatment they received. It was his opinion that the best plan of treatment would be to treat them with a horsehip! He was not speaking ironically at all, but meant what he said; a good horsehip would be the best thing. Under the present system of treatment they were always likely to have a good many lunatics.*

His worship, the mayor, listened in silence, and only one member of the corporation thus entered his protest:—

Mr. Haslam was very sorry to hear Mr. Pool speak in that way about persons suffering one of the most awful calamities that human nature was liable to—(hear, hear)—and which of all others was most to be pitied, and was most difficult to cure. He would support Mr. Madeley's motion, believing that kindness and a thoroughly contrary treatment to that of the horsewhip was of all others the most likely means to effect the cure of those unfortunate persons whose very great misfortune it was to be deprived of the use of their reason. (Hear, hear.) To talk of going back to the days of the horsewhip to drive poor lunatics into reason! It was monstrous in the extreme! He was indeed very sorry to hear such an opinion fall from the lips of Mr. Pool. (Hear, hear.)

When it is remembered that Mr. Pool will probably, in rotation, be a visitor of the Derby Borough Asylum, even that council, of which he is so distinguished an ornament, may understand why it is that physicians, in seeking the charge of such establishments, give so decided a preference to the County Asylums under the rule of the great Tory magnates.

In all sober earnest, we ask how long the cause of progress is to be disgraced by such a speech—unreproved by the Chair—from one of those orators who now sit in the Derby and other Common Council Rooms?