

SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE
OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1902.

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THE PREVENTION OF THE POLLUTION OF STREAMS BY MODERN METHODS OF SEWAGE TREATMENT.*

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

When the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science first asked me to address you on the subject of modern methods of sewage disposal, I felt that it was not a subject of sufficient general interest, and it was only after serious consideration and many misgivings that I consented to do so.

The pollution of streams by the discharge of crude sewage has, however, now reached such a point in the more thickly settled portions of our country, that public attention has at last been called to the subject, and very many of our inland cities are now finding themselves face to face with the problem: How can sewage be treated so that it can be emptied into a stream without causing offense? Such being the case, it may not after all be out of place at a meeting of an Association for the Advancement of Science, to consider very briefly what science has done and is doing towards solution of the problem.

Sewage can be defined as the water supply of a city after it has been used. It contains the solid and liquid excreta of the

* Complimentary address to the citizens of Pittsburgh. American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pittsburgh Meeting, June 28 to July 3, 1902.