

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEED OF UNIFORMITY IN RECORDING RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF SEWAGE AND WATER.

TO THE EDITOR OF "PUBLIC HEALTH."

DEAR SIR,

At the British Association meeting at Dover this week, the committee appointed to establish a uniform system of recording the results of the chemical and bacteriological examination of water and sewage, of which I am secretary, presented an interim report, and I shall be glad if you will be good enough to give it publicity in your paper. The committee are anxious that all official reports in this country shall be reported in a similar manner, as it will then enable such reports to be compared with one another without calculation. As your paper has a circulation amongst municipal officers and others interested in this question, its publication in your Journal will cause the report to reach those whom I am unable to communicate with personally. It will be noticed that the report urges the adoption of the system of recording the results originally adopted by the Rivers Pollution Commission, and confirmed by the committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1887, and I believe it is not a breach of confidence for me to add that the Royal Commission at present sitting will also conform to these suggestions. A further advantage of the "parts per 100,000" over "grains per gallon" is that Continental results are always recorded in this manner. The committee hope next year to supplement this report by further recommendations to cover those other points not embodied in the present report, and as secretary of the committee I shall be glad to receive the views of other workers to lay before the committee.

Yours faithfully,
SAMUEL RIDEAL.

28, Victoria Street, Westminster,
London, S.W., September 21st, 1899.

ENCLOSURE.

Water and Sewage Examination Results.—Report of the Committee, consisting of PROFESSOR W. RAMSAY (Chairman), Dr. S. RIDEAL (Secretary), SIR W. CROOKES, PROFESSOR F. CLOWES, PROFESSOR P. F. FRANKLAND, and PROFESSOR R. BOYCE, appointed to establish a Uniform System of Recording the Results of the Chemical and Bacterial Examination of Water and Sewage.

The committee beg to report as follows: That it is desirable that results of analysis should be expressed in parts per 100,000, except in the case of dissolved gases, when these should be stated as cubic centimetres of gas at 0°C. and 760 mm. in 1 litre of water. This method of recording results is in accordance with that suggested by the committee appointed in 1887 to confer with the committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with a view to forming a uniform system of recording the results of water analysis.*

* *British Association Report*, 1899.