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Editorial

Sedimentation Tank. War or no war, the problem of Sewage Disposal is ever with us. In our last issue we mentioned a visit of the Members of the Association to the Sedimentation tanks under construction at Bantolla for the Calcutta Corporation and its demonstration by Mr. P. C. Bose (*our Vice-President*), the Executive Engineer. This time we publish a paper on the scheme which Mr. Bose kindly agreed to prepare for the Association of Engineers. It is entitled, "Sewage Clarification plant for Calcutta" and was read by him at the Association meeting on the 4th March, 1942. Though it deals with a particular problem of the city of Calcutta, it will be found of interest all over the world to those engaged in the problem of disposal of Urban sewage.

The War. We have now arrived at a stage of the war in which everyone of our members has become war-minded. Problems of defence and problems of attack have become day to day considerations. A conflict rages between our British and our Indian members as to who is to have control of the defence of India and political issues have complicated the problem. The actual Technical problems of defence technique have hardly been discussed, though heated controversy rages regarding the "Scorched Earth" policy of destruction of defensive property by the defenders and withdrawal in the face of enemy attack. Rather than let the enemy get the benefit of our property,

the "Scorched Earth" policy would be to destroy it ourselves when it becomes certain that we can hold it no longer. But destruction of our property is essentially the function of the enemy, and our function is the destruction rather of enemy property than our own. Destruction by ourselves of our own property amounts to an admission that it has already become enemy property and an expression of inability to defend or recapture, which is a feeling of hopelessness that cannot be good for morale. A population, moreover, that has no control of its own defence and is in addition threatened with a "Scorched Earth" policy by foreign defenders is likely to consider itself, as it were, sandwiched between two fires and lost eitherway. Its reaction would in that case be to remain not only indifferent to the issue of the fight but actually antagonistic towards those foreigners who retain control of its defence and suspicious of their motives for retaining and seemingly depriving the people of that control. These controversial topics should be speedily disposed of and preparation of sound schemes for defence immediately taken on hand.

Change of Address. A Rolling Stone gathers no moss, and, by moving too often, our prestige may suffer some loss. But a progressive body must move with the moving times and so we have moved (just only a stone's throw away from our old place) into more modern quarters on one of the latest thoroughfares opened out under the auspices of the Calcutta Improvement Trust.

The new position will be found much more convenient to most members a site is much nearer the route of the public conveyances. The building itself is of the most modern type and will answer to the best taste. As it was, however, not quite completed on the date of our moving in, we had been somewhat thrown out of organisation for a while, and that has caused a much regretted delay in our publication which we hope will have been compensated for by the quality of the contents of this issue.