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**LEAD PIPE VS. IRON PIPE FOR
PLUMBING.**

Modern times have witnessed a ten-
dency to substitute iron pipe for or-
dinary connections, specious argu-
ments as to its superiority being ad-
vanced by those most interested in its
jurisdiction. An impartial considera-
tion of these pleas will not by any
means serve to convince the owner-
builder of the advantages of iron as
a substitute for lead pipe, as the fol-
lowing brief resume of their respective
merits will prove: Iron, or what
is to-day the same thing, steel pipe
galvanized, is cheaper in first cost
than lead, and it is to the shortsight-
edness of those who did not look be-
yond this fact that we owe the grad-
ual introduction of iron (or steel)
pipe in plumbing work. While iron
pipe is notably susceptible to corro-
sion and suffers particularly under
the effect of electrolysis, lead pipe
under similar circumstances is al-
most indefinitely durable. In the
course of archaeological excavations
in Rome, Pompeii and other ancient
centres of civilization, lead pipe has
been unearthed that is more than
2,000 years old and still a good water
conductor. Lead, like iron, is subject
to the effect of electric decomposition,
but not more so than iron, if as much.

Other disadvantages under which
iron pipe labors are its rigidity, the
sharpness of the bends it must make
by means of its cast fittings and the
number of joinings its short length
compels. Every screwed coupling
joint in an iron pipe is a weak spot,
at which leakage is likely to develop;
the wiped solder joints of lead pipe,
on the other hand, are strong points,
and if properly made will never give
way.

The very manner of making the
joints in lead and iron pipe consti-
tute one of the defects of the latter.
In the first place, the interior capa-
city of the lead pipe is continued
without decrease; the iron pipe joint,
owing to the burr the tools cause in
cutting and threading, provides a
more or less restricted passage for the
fluid passing through it. Not only
this, but the cutting process, as a rule,
damages the galvanizing, as the coat-
ing of zinc depended on to prevent

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