LEAD PIPE VS. IRON PIPE FOR PLUMBING.

Modern times have witnessed a tendency to substitute iron pipe for ordinary connections, specious arguments as to its superiority being advanced by those most interested in its jurisdiction. An impartial consideration 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 following 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 shortsightedness of those who did not look beyond this fact that we owe the gradual introduction of iron (or steel) pipe in plumbing work. While iron pipe is notably susceptible to corrosion and suffers particularly under the effect of electrolysis, lead pipe under similar circumstances is almost 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 constitute one of the defects of the latter. In the first place, the interior capacity 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 coating of zinc depended on to prevent