

months. As proof that the quick subsidence is due to the presence of these salts, we have only to add a minute proportion of such (usually aluminum sulphate) to the other water to produce the same effect. Hence, when water issues from the earth in a very clear and perfect state, we may always be sure that it has encountered somewhere on its travels a body of earth or mineral containing a suitable coagulant, the action of which coagulant upon the water accounts for its wonderful purity aside from and entirely independent of the mere filtering effect of the earth.

It has remained for the present decade to apply the above knowledge

to the art of filtration of water, and for the first time produce results equal to nature.

As this industry extends, it will become a common thing to see "spring" water issue from our city faucets, as is already the case in a few American cities, notably Atlanta, Long Branch, and Newport.

The study of this subject furnishes a striking example of Nature's exhibiting, in the humble wayside "spring," the results of her perfect handiwork for the observation and admiration of man throughout all ages and countries, only to deliver up her secret to the pale student of this century of science.—*Science*.

A SANDY SIMOON IN THE NORTH-WEST.

MAY 6 and 7, 1889, will long be remembered by the residents of the North-West. On those days culminated the violence of the dry, south-easterly wind which had prevailed in some portions of the North-West, particularly in central and eastern Dakota, for several days previous. The wind itself, while not specially violent, varying from twenty to forty miles an hour, and perhaps in some places fifty miles an hour, was remarkable for carrying with it clouds of dust and sand, which filled the air and penetrated into houses, and blinded the traveller who happened to be caught in the roads, and compelled the cessation of nearly all outside labour. The wind prevailed over a large area. It seems to have reached farthest east, and been most violent, on the 6th and 7th of the month. The newspapers gave telegraphic accounts of it in Nebraska, South and North Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota. It probably also affected western Wisconsin and considerable portions of Missouri.

A strong south-easterly parching wind, prevailing for several days, about that time in the spring, is a familiar fact to old residents who have taken note of the peculiarities of the north-western climate. It more frequently comes after spring vegetation, is more advanced than it was this season on the days mentioned; and its effect on small, tender twigs is disastrous. It is enervating to all animals, and merciless on the wilting vegetation. But prior to this wind, which was followed everywhere by copious rains, the spring of 1889 in the North-west had been dry; and this was intensified in its effect on young vegetation by the preceding dry and open winter. All springs and streams were unwontedly low: hence the soil was loose, and exposed to the attack of the wind. Grass was not so large as usual, and did not shield the soil. Extensive prairie and forest fires had recently denuded large tracts of much of the protection which vegetation otherwise would have furnished. Circumstances were favourable, there-