

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

FILTERS.

The Public Health section of the British Medical Association, in its recent congress, held this month, gave considerable attention to the subject of water filters, which has recently been much discussed in medical and scientific papers, as well as in the daily press. The Public Health section was mainly concerned on one day with discussing the dangers to which contaminated water exposed the community. In the presidential address it was pointed out that one of the gravest reproaches against official sanitary administration was that it was only just beginning to realize the protection which could be obtained against cholera, typhoid fever, and similar diseases by the adoption of the Pasteur system of filtration, which had in France for many years succeeded in stamping out such diseases wherever it had been applied. One of the last official acts of the congress was to visit the premises of Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, who have provided Pasteur filtration to supply the whole of the drinking water used by, roughly, the 1,000 persons resident in or employed on the firm's premises, this large installation giving practical evidence that the system can be conveniently applied on an extensive scale. The report published last year by the association of the researches made by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons by Dr. Sims Woodhead, the director of the laboratories, showed that, without exception, all the most trusted filtering media used in England are not only valueless, but increase the danger. At the same time, it was shown, as had been previously demonstrated at the public health laboratories of the Universities of Edinburgh and Paris, that the filter devised by M. Pasteur and Dr. Chamberland, the present director of the Pasteur Institute of Paris, after many years of special investigations, gives reliable protection against typhoid fever, cholera, and all water-borne diseases. The Pasteur filter consists essentially of a number of hollow tubes of hard, porous material, which is not ordinary porcelain, but a peculiar composition, which it has hitherto been found impossible to imitate or to prepare without the special scientific methods worked out by the bacteriologists in question. It is of the highest importance for all persons who wish to use filters for the protection of their health and that of their families to avoid jumping to conclusions, or basing their selection of a filter on obsolete ideas. In particular it is desirable that they should remember that the protection which has been shown in practice to be given by the Pasteur filter is not necessarily obtained by filters made in the same form and

sometimes even of apparently the same material. The composition of the Pasteur cylinder took several years to work out, and numerous materials, which by an outsider could not be distinguished from that which was ultimately adopted, had to be rejected.

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

TOWNSHIP OF MORRIS V. COUNTY OF HURON.—Action tried before Meredith, C. J., without a jury at Goderich, to recover 40 per cent. of the amount expended by the plaintiffs in the maintenance of certain of their bridges, founded upon an award. Judgment for plaintiffs with costs for 40 per cent. of the expenditure made by them for the maintenance of the bridges mentioned in the award before the 1st September, 1894. If the parties cannot agree as to the amount, there will be a reference to ascertain it.

HAGGERT V. TOWN OF BRAMPTON.—Judgment in the Divisional Court at Toronto, on appeal by plaintiff, the liquidator of the Haggert Brothers Manufacturing Co., from the judgment of MacMahon, J., in favor of defendants in an action of detinue or trover for certain machinery and plant claimed by plaintiff as chattels of the company, but claimed by defendants, the corporation of the town, as part of the freehold of the premises known as the Haggert Foundry, in the Town of Brampton, which passed to the corporation under a mortgage. The corporation sold some of the articles in question to the defendants Blain and McMurchy. Judgment for plaintiff for delivery of chattels unattached to building, other than patterns, without costs. As to patterns, new trial ordered or reference to Master, as parties may elect, reserving costs in case of reference. In other respects judgment of MacMahon, J., affirmed.

WINN V. TOWN OF MILTON.—Judgment by Justices Boyd and Meredith in the Divisional Court at Toronto, on appeal by defendants from judgment of Falconbridge, J., after trial at Milton, in favor of plaintiff in action to recover \$600 upon an agreement between the parties for a bonus, and a by-law authorizing the payment of the bonus upon the terms of the agreement. The bonus was for the purpose of aiding the establishment of a boot and shoe factory by the plaintiff in the Town of Milton. The defence was that the terms and conditions of the agreement had not been performed by the plaintiff, and the principal point raised was that the plaintiff had not "continuously" employed fifty operatives at least in the factory. The plaintiff gave evidence to show that on an average fifty had been employed, and whether that was sufficient, and, if so, how the average was to be taken were the questions chiefly discussed. The Court ruled that the plaintiff's son, William Winn, could not be included in the number of operatives employed by plaintiff for the year for which the plaintiff sought to recover. Also that the expenditure during the three weeks while work was suspended on account of a fire is to be excluded from the aggregate expenditure upon

which the the average outlay for work is ascertained. If, on applying these rulings to the facts, the result is affected, judgment below is to be varied accordingly, and action to be dismissed with costs.

A large and important appropriation has been made to the Health Board of Massachusetts for the purpose of carrying on scientific investigations as to the best methods of purifying drinking waters. This investigation has for its special purpose the water supply of the Metropolitan district of Boston and the twenty-eight cities and towns within the bounds of its territory. The subject, however, is more important than the benefits it may confer to the territory to which it will be applied. The same questions that are involved here reach into almost every growing city and town of the country; and the advance of these towns to the proportions of large cities makes the study of water supply one of the most important questions coming before this class of scientific investigators. Therefore the work of the Massachusetts board will receive close attention from sanitarians and city officials all over the country. If perchance it may bring forth any new facts, or develop theories that may be useful in application, its work will be one of national importance. Massachusetts is to be commended for its sagacity, liberality and public spirit in dealing with such questions, and more than one good idea has been developed in the old Commonwealth which has permeated and improved conditions all over the country.

A correspondent asks us to prophesy the future of the granite paving industry after the exit of the horse and the advent of the power carriage, says Stone. That's easy. We are gifted in such prophecy. Behold! There will be leagues then where now are miles of granite pavement. Because, the horseless carriage must necessarily be several times heavier to carry the load that horses now haul. Its mechanical construction implies that, and with added weight, of course, comes added power and greater loads. It will be speedier, or else it will be a failure. Weight and rapid motion will wear out roadways quickly. Hence, the economy in a most substantial roadbed. That's granite block. Roadways must, of course, be wider. More granite. The entire length will be paved. Still more granite. Poor roads, no traffic. Horseless vehicles must not stick in a rut, or that's the end of it, or the end of the local government that is responsible for the ruts. Good, solid stone roads will be the issue in every local election. Asphalt will be the thing for residence streets and boulevards. That will draw heavily on the dump piles of the local quarries; brick will be on concrete base in side streets and court yards; macadam will do on farm lanes; race tracks for the light motorcycles will be paved with fine-screened granite. Let us rejoice in the doom of the beast of burden, and in the advent of the mechanical truck. Our prayers being answered, then the stone business will be helped mightily. The Stone Age is in sight again.