

The debates were as warm—and sometimes as heated—as though politics or money were under consideration; then the president would invite the debaters to unite as well as they could, and a resolution to represent what was the most general view of what should be done was framed and sent in to the Government and other bodies seeking advice, or most competent to act on it.

WATER FILTRATION.

Proceeding to Paris, I visited the newest water-filtration plant, and the sewage farms of Gennevilliers.

There are many filtration stations supplying Paris, and I went to that of Ivry. Here I presented my credentials of the University of Toronto and as delegate from the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario, and was treated with the greatest courtesy, the Engineer-Superintendent in charge, Dr. Régis Tartary, spending more than two hours conducting me over the plant and making explanations. The number of filter-beds is being more than doubled, and I was fortunate in arriving a few days before the new ones were put into use, thereby seeing their construction. They are abandoning the layers of gravel and broken brick and stone, thus saving space for an increased depth of sand, and this rests on a foundation of a porous cement laid to the thickness of an inch or a little more on a framework of a thick plate of iron or steel divided by ribs into squares apparently of 12 to 15 inches. The plate under the cement is perforated by numerous small holes and rests on strong rows of vitrified-brick (?) material, leaving run-ways for the filtered water between the iron plate and the cement bottom of the filter-tank. You will remember that in the early days of filtration on the large scale, frequent renewal of the top sand was recommended, and then the Massachusetts people, to whom we owe so much, promulgated the theory, since generally held, that the filter-bed did not attain a fair degree of efficiency until a gelatinous film had formed on its surface. M. Tartary smiled and said, "I used to believe that once, but one day a horse fell into the filter-bed, and floundered all over it. I do not believe that theory any more." And they now do not fear frequent scraping of the surface, and do not wait for the flow of water to be greatly lessened in quantity before removing the top. There was so much to hear and see that I did not ask him whether that incident was the only ground of his change of belief, but gathered that he had been taking observations before and after renewal. The water, after