

from Australia. An inquiry has recently been set on foot to determine whether some other of the Australian woods notably red gum would serve as well as jarrah wood, but the testimony goes to show that while substitutes are used in some Australian cities for jarrah nothing that is offered is quite as satisfactory. They all lack the lasting qualities of jarrah. The inquiries further show that there need be no apprehension of the supply running short for many years to come. Wood paving grows more and more in favor in the European cities.

Steam should never be put into a brick or cement sewer, as it has an injurious effect on the same, causing disintegration and collapse within a very short time; neither should it be led into a brick chimney for the same reasons. In some places it is the practice of engineers to turn the exhaust from pump or small engine into the sewers, but this is bad practice, and, we believe, an illegal act in some cities, for it will not only destroy the sewers, but the heat of the steam makes the malarial gases more active, while at the same time it produces a certain amount of pressure that will force the gas back into the buildings through the water traps commonly in use. In these traps there is seldom more than three inches of water, and very little pressure is necessary to force the gas through them. Wherever gas is forced back through buildings in this or a similar manner the death rate in that locality will certainly be greatly increased.

All hydrants in Ottawa, Ont., are examined daily during the winter to prevent freezing. They are only slightly moved, water not being allowed to pass the valve, and if found frozen, a steam boiler is at once sent to thaw them out, while they are also steamed after use at all fires. During this season, the blow-offs are allowed to run continually at the dead ends and all exposed places, and no mains have been frozen for the last three or four years. Superintendent Robert Surtees writes that in cold weather consumers are advised to allow their taps to run a small stream the size of a straw, and when they have drainage so that this causes little inconvenience to the consumer, there is little trouble. The most cases of freezing occur where the houses are not connected with the sewer, and during the last of February and March. During a thaw and soft weather in early spring or late winter, more trouble is experienced than when the temperature is 20 degrees below zero; the frost seems to go down when the weather is mild. Two steam boilers on runners are kept ready all the time to visit and thaw out any hydrant or service that is found to be frozen.

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