## MUNCIPAL DEPARTMENT

## SERVICE PIPES.

It is an open question in many cities and towns, says Fire and Water, as to the method of procedure of introducing service pipes leading from water mains to the inside of buildings to be furnished with water. It is customary for water departments, private and municipal, to insert the required sized tap in the water main. This is the general rule. As to connecting and introducing the service pipe, it is done in many cases by the water depurtment either laying the service pupe to the curb line of the street, and continuing it to the inside of the builsing, or permations a plumber or licensed party to perform the work under the rules and regulations of the vater department. In the one case, the service pipe becomes the property of the water taker, who is obliged to keep the service pipe in repair. In the other case, the service pipe is the property of the corporation, and the question of repairs is the obligation of the owner, under these two condutions of administration of service. When properly administered little trouble is experienced; in fact, if trouble occurs by reason of the use of poor fixtures, which is frequently the case, it at once becomes more than local; good street paving of every descrip. tion is torn up ; streets are blocked; and travel is inconvenienced. The result is that the orignal surface condition of a street thus torn up can rarely be restored to its former excellence. Nearly all this can be avoided, if proper rules and regulations are estiolished and enforced. None but material of the most permanent character should be permitied to be used under the streets. If this step is taken the serious and important item of street
repars would be reduced to a minımum The question of allowing licensed parties to use the streets in the manner they do (even under inspection), to repair service pipes or place thein, is capable of vast improvement. It is time a substantial reform is inaugurated in this branch of the public servict. It would seem reasonable and proper that the departments controling sewer and water services should perform this work, even if 11 only extended to the curb line. In fact, they control the streets by law, and issue permits under rules-conferring the authority upon licensed persons. In this way, the responsibility is not so direct, and the work is not satisfactory, as it would be under the direction of the city authorities. There would be no need of fear on the score of negligent inspection, and the administra non would undoubtedly be able to render efficient service in pieserving the surface conditions of streets, which are in sood order, and at the saine time would use only the best materials for construction of underground work. In many cities and towns licensed plambers are permitted to use any kind of cheap material for service pipes and curb-cocks. It is time this practise should be abandoned, and the work performed by the city authorities or the water department. It would save expense to property-owners, as the city can afford to do the work at cost, and it would be controlled by those in uhose hands the authority properly lies.

## GLASS PAVEMENTS.

It is within the range of possibilties that glass will largely supplant stone and asphat for pavements in the near future. The advantages claimed for this kind of pavement are that it offers greater resistance than stone, that ice does not readily form upon it, that dirt and filth will not accumulate upon it as easily as upon stone, that it will not retain microbes, that it is more durable than stone, and jus: as cheap, and no more slippery than asphalt.
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