

# SWEET CAPORAL



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### MODERN STEEL BUILDINGS.

Mr. John M. Ewen, of Chicago, gave a very interesting lecture on Tuesday last before the students of the School of

Practical Science, and a number of Toronto's engineers and architects. Mr. Ewen spoke of the rapidity with which modern structures are erected, as compared with that of 50 years ago, which, he said, was accounted for by the precision with which architects and engineers now make their estimates, and also by the system which compels each contractor to complete his work in a limited time. The speaker also referred to the ability of the modern steel structure to resist shocks. As an evidence of this the San Francisco disaster was referred to, and Mr. Ewen told how the old masonry buildings had collapsed, while those constructed of steel remained intact. He also stated that a very considerable saving in floor space was obtained, and as an instance, cited the old county buildings in Chicago, the foundation walls of which are 20 feet thick, while those of the modern steel structure are only 3 feet thick.

Mr. Ewen is one of the largest contractors of the United States, and at present is retained by the Chicago Drainage Company to move the material excavated from the canal, a contract of over \$20,000,000. Mr. Ewen's firm has had 71 skyscrapers under contract at one time.

The Hamilton Fire and Water Committee have decided to ask permission to issue debentures for \$62,000 for the following work: New mains, \$28,000; services, \$16,000; sand sucker, \$12,000; meters, \$4,000; valves, \$1,000.

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