

entering the bedrooms, while the absence of ventilation for either the cesspool or sewer left no other exit for them. The waste pipes were not carried above the roof, nor was a single trap separately ventilated. The sinks were encased in wood and were used to throw chamber slops in, and as urinals; they were necessarily offensive, particularly as the halls in some of the buildings in which they were located had but little light or ventilation. Even in the handsome new Witherspoon Hall the arrangement was no better; in each hall the sink, save an unventilated trap, offered no barrier to the entrance of the cesspool air close to the doors of students' bedrooms; and in this, the newest building, the amount of sickness was greatest.

Despite the fact that, for weeks, disinfectants had everywhere been abundantly used, the odors from some of the fixtures was noisome in the extreme, particularly in the West dormitory, where two of the worst cases of sickness were found in rooms opening on halls, in which the state of the fixtures was but too suggestive of contagion.

Attempts are being made to trace the above outbreak to some primary cause, and to sift the cases into specific classes of disease. But it is enough for our purpose to show that the defective drainage of these buildings at Princeton was sufficient to have poisoned all who occupied them, and that it is simply providential that so few suffered of the many who were exposed. How the poison was first introduced has not been explained fully, but how it was spread is very evident.

Other colleges should take warning from this experience, and at once have a thorough examination made of their buildings by experts to ascertain if they are not also deficient in these matters. Immunity from such an outbreak should not by any means be considered evidence of good sanitary arrangements. It is better to shut the door before the horse is stolen.

We are informed on good authority that no pains or expense will be spared to correct all these defects, and that the trustees of the institution propose to avail themselves of the best expert advice. If they do this there is no doubt that the college will be as healthy as any in the country.—*The Sanitary Engineer.*

ANCIENT AMERICAN GIANTS.

The Rev. Stephen Bowers notes, in the *Kansas City Review of Science*, the opening of an interesting mound in Brush Creek Township, Ohio. The mound was opened by the Historical Society of the township, under the immediate supervision of Dr. J. F. Everhart, of Zanesville. It measured sixty four by thirty-five feet at the summit, gradually sloping in every direction, and was eight feet in height. There was found in it a sort of clay coffin including the skeleton of a woman measuring eight feet in length. Within this coffin was found also the skeleton of a child about three and a half feet in length, and an image that crumbled when exposed to the atmosphere. In another grave was found the skeleton of a man and woman, the former measuring nine and the latter eight feet in length. In a third grave occurred two other skeletons, male and female, measuring respectively nine feet four inches and eight feet. Seven other skeletons were found in the mound, the smallest of which measured eight feet, while others reached the enormous length of ten feet. They were buried singly, or each in separate graves. Resting against one of the coffins was an engraved stone tablet (now in Cincinnati), from the characters on which Dr. Everhart and Mr. Bowers are led to conclude that this giant race were sun worshippers.

THE EFFECT OF ELECTRIC LIGHT UPON THE EYES.—A Russian correspondent of the *Paris Temps* speaks as follows as regards the matter: "Kronstadt was the first city in Russia where the electric light was introduced into public and private buildings, and it has also been the first to discover its inconveniences. Diseases of the eyes having become more frequent, the attention of the government and of oculists has been turned towards the means of preventing these sad effects. The officer commanding the Black fleet has reported several cases of the sudden loss of sight caused by the dazzling of these lights used on board, and having an illuminating power of 14,000 candles. Dr. Lubinski, a specialist and an ordinary authority in these matters, has investigated this question, and finds that the use of blue glasses is the best protection against the Jablochkoff light. Next to this comes the gray glasses, and then the violet. Clear yellow tints, and also red, should be carefully avoided, for instead of decreasing the ill effects of the electric light upon the eye, these colors render it more injurious."

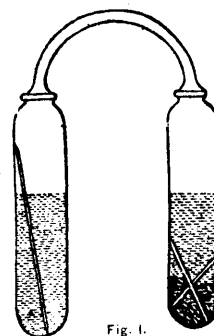


Fig. 1.

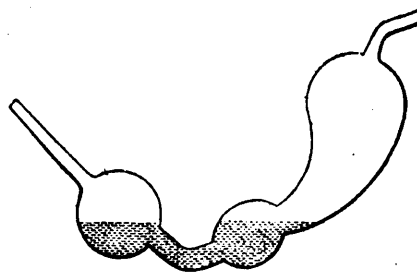
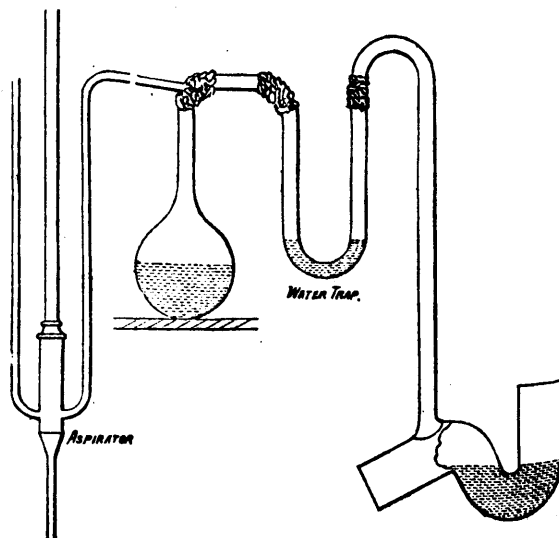


Fig. 2.



EFFICIENCY OF WATER-TRAPS.—See page 250.

LUMINOUS FLOWERS.—Among the elegant novelties of the hour now offered for sale on the Paris boulevards are phosphorescent flowers, which glow with a lambent light in the dark, and rival their natural tints. They are luminous by coating the petals with transparent size, and dusting them with a phosphorescent substance, such as canton phosphorus (sulphide of calcium) or Bologna phosphorus (sulphide of barium). Canton phosphorus is the best, and yields a soft yellow light. According to M. Becquerel, a good quantity can be made by mixing 48 parts of flowers of sulphur with 53 parts of calcined oyster shells, and raising them to a temperature of between 800 and 900 degrees centigrade in a crucible. After exposure to sunlight during the day, or to the electric or magnesium light, the flowers thus coated become brightly luminous in the dark.