

means of reaching persons in danger, if incapable of helping themselves, and the stand-pipe would form a permanent water tower ready for use at any moment.

The building laws require the inspector of buildings to examine every building occupied as a hotel, boarding or lodging house, factory, mill or manufactory, or for offices or workshops in which persons are employed above the second story, and if, in his opinion, such building is not provided with proper facilities for the escape of persons in case of fire, he shall immediately serve a notice in writing upon the owner or owners, agent or other party or parties having an interest in said building, requiring the necessary additional facilities to be provided without delay.

Inspection of buildings.

It is stated in the Fire Commissioners' Report for 1881 that, "without a proper and ample supply of water the best drilled and equipped department in the world is powerless, and I again call your attention to the fact that, in the event of a large fire in the business section of the city, the water supply or water fixtures are not sufficient to work the full force of the department." Some of the pipes being considered too small, it is recommended to take them up and substitute others of larger diameter, and to increase the number of fire hydrants. The best pressure at the hydrant is given as about 30 lbs. on the square inch, while the lowest is zero. It is also said that in few parts of the city can a jet from a hydrant be obtained exceeding twenty feet in height.

Water supply.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is of interest—and may possibly lead to extra precaution being taken in regard to the construction and systematic cleaning of chimneys—to note that in London during the year 1882, out of a total of 6578 calls to fires, no less than 4237 were chimney alarms, and in Paris in 1881, of 3375 fires which occurred in that year, "2114, or about two-thirds originated in chimneys, more or less poorly constructed."

Dangerous chimneys.

With regard to fires in other European cities, the "Boston Herald" is responsible for the truth of the following statements which, however, had better be accepted with a certain amount of reserve. "A fire of any magnitude in any of the continental cities of Europe is very rare. The smallest blaze is looked upon as an affair of importance, and in such a town as Heidelberg, in Germany, when an alarm is sounded, the firemen arrange themselves with as much care before responding as if they were getting themselves up for a wedding or funeral. They not only wait to put on their uniform, but they blacken their boots and indulge in a clean

Fires in European cities.