and other disturbances from being set up in the settling compartments which might interfere with the settling efficiency, the liquid is admitted to the settling compartment in a direction opposite to that which it must take in passing through the compartment. The clarified sewage leaves the settling compartment over eight 15-inch weirs discharging into the collecting trough.

The presence of the concrete struts in the settling compartment does not in any was interfere with the efficiency of the tank. Where necessary, they can be capped with wedge-shaped pieces of concrete having slopes of at least 45 degrees.

In that circular segmental area between the distributing trough and the shell of the tank, all of the floating matter is collected and forms a very heavy scum, requiring slight attention from the operator.

To increase the settling efficiency of tanks of the type described, the writer uses vertical circulation. The amount of sewage thus circulated is very small and does not exceed two per cent. of the total amount of the sewage treated. To accomplish the vertical circulation mentioned, a 6-inch cast iron main with four 4-inch circular openings is laid in the digesting chamber of each tank, about 6 feet above the slot. (See Figs. 2 and 3). This circulating main terminates in a small chamber located in the segment between the collecting trough and the shell, which chamber has an adjustable weir to control the flow from the digesting chamber into the collecting trough. In the Springfield plant the liquid thus drawn off is mixed with the effluent from the settling compartment and the resultant mixture is treated on the sprinkling filters. In other plants that the writer has built, the liquid drawn off from the digesting chambers is returned to the distributing troughs. Circulation such as that used in Springfield is especially of value when the sewage to be treated reaches the plant in a more or less septic condition. The plant has not been in operation long enough to determine the exact value of the circulation system.

Sludge Digesting Chamber.—The suspended organic and mineral matter which settles out of the sewage in the settling compartment, slides down the inclined plane through the 8-inch slots located in the bottom of the wedge-shaped settling compartments into the sludge digesting chamber. The sludge digesting chamber has a capacity of 150,000 gallons below the opening. The bottom of this compartment is formed by four cone-shaped depressions in which the decomposed sludge ultimately collects. To draw off the sludge, 8-inch cast iron sludge pipes extend down into these cone-shaped depressions, the sides of which slope at an angle of 30 degrees. The lower ends of these pipes terminate in bell-mouths supported on spiders. The sludge pipes are carried up inside of the tank to the top, giving ready access for cleaning. The sludge outlets, of which there are four for each unit, discharge under a 5-foot head into a reinforced concrete trough which conveys the sludge to the drying beds. The open channel used for conveying the sludge is preferable to the closed pipes generally used. In an open channel the sludge drawn off is at all times visible to the operator, and therefore the character of the sludge drawn off can be controlled far better than when a closed sludge conveyer is used. There is positively no odor during the operation of the sludge valves, either in the trough or upon the sludge beds.

The Springfield tanks have been found to be very economical in construction. Concrete and steel are used under ideal conditions to resist the pressures to which the tank is subjected. From the contractor's standpoint also

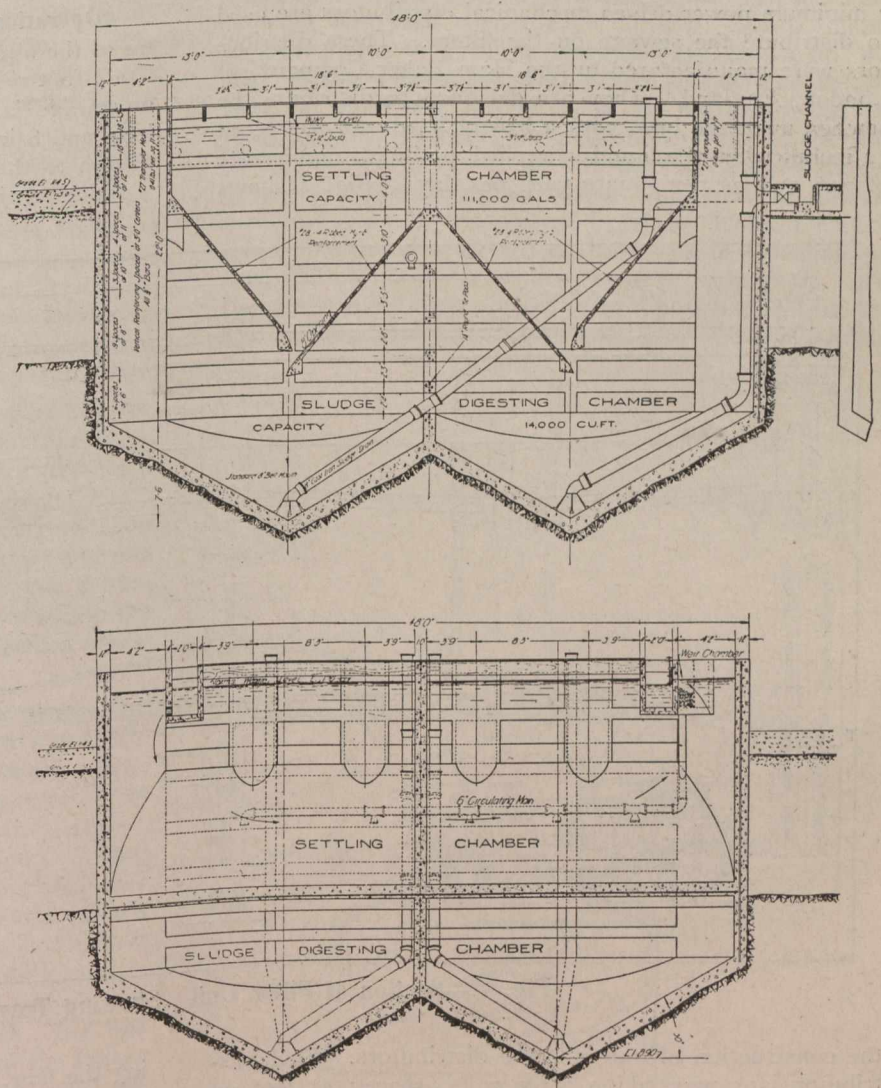

Fig. 3.—Detail Sections of Main Settling Tank.—Upper Section on CC., Lower Section on BB.

the cost of constructing the tank is not excessive. To construct the conical bottoms of the digesting chamber a vertical pipe 2 inches in diameter was placed in the centre of each cone and firmly braced. From this pipe was suspended a wooden triangle adjusted at such an elevation that the hypotenuse described the interior surface of the cone when rotated about the pipe. The concrete was mixed rather dry and placed in 4-inch layers and tamped as much as it would stand, the last layer being carefully brought to a true line by the swinging template. A ½-inch coating of 1 to 2 mortar was applied to the interior of the cones to give them a smooth surface.

To construct the outside shell of the settling tank the contractor used wooden forms made in 5-foot sections 2 feet high. A complete set of inside and outside