

WASTE OF CROTON WATER.

WE direct public attention to the advertisement of the Croton Aqueduct Board, in another column. Were it not for the signature of one of the Commissioners to the advertisement, we confess we should have supposed it to be a hoax; but as it is undoubtedly genuine, we can assure the Board that the effect of the notice will not be as salutary as they suppose. The whole system of Croton taxation is wrong. The tax is fixed by law *pro rata* upon the width of the lot and height of the edifice, and must be paid by the owner. A person living in a five-story house is charged for the water at that height, with the liberty to use it on each story; whereas we have not seen the day in ten years when the water would rise above the fourth story, nor, we may almost say, in five years, when it would reach that point until long after nightfall, when the factories and public buildings are closed, and then but in drops. The consequence is, that Croton tax-payers feel that they have been over-taxed (light as the rate is), or at least wrongly taxed, and therefore they use the water with careless profusion whenever they can get it.

And now for the remedy. Advertisements are of little use. Appeals from the Commissioners will not effect the object. *The water must pass through the purses of consumers* in the shape of WATER METERS—just as gas goes through them in the shape of gas meters. Let the Croton bills be *liquidated* monthly to the tune of so much a hundred gallons, estimated by the tell-tale index, and we shall hear no more complaints of waste; on the contrary, we shall have full reservoirs, and as many clean faces and clean shirts in the streets as ever.

The question as to who makes the best water-meters will be considered at another time. That they will come into immediate and universal use is as certain as that water will continue to flow. Consequently, whichever meter comes first on the market, and proves correct, will carry everything before it; and having once established itself, will probably retain the public favor.