

only, and he makes \$8,000 more on rent of boxes. Of deputy officers and clerks there are one hundred and eighty-two, all of whom are appointed by the postmaster. It is generally supposed that there are large perquisites pertaining to the office; but beyond the box fees and the patronage there are none, unless one chooses to imitate the example of the absconding Fowler. The leading aspirants after this office are Mr. Taylor, Benj. T. Welsh, jr., and Joseph Horie.

Mr. Taylor is the present incumbent. He has been a democrat and whig, and it is said now claims to have voted for Mr. Lincoln. He has been connected with the office through several administrations, having from a subordinate position been gradually promoted to his present place.

Mr. Welsh belongs in Buffalo. He was adjutant-general under Governor Morgan. His seeking after the office is not relished by New-York politicians, on account of his being a non-resident.

Mr. Horie is a lawyer of years and reputation. It is understood that he first desired the collectorship, but seeing little chance for success in this quarter, made up his mind to take charge of the New-York mails.—Mr. Lincoln not objecting.

THE ASSAY OFFICE.

Here is a snug position, and there are those willing to discharge the duties appertaining thereto. The superintendent has a salary of \$3,500 per annum, and then there is an assistant treasurer, who receives \$4,000; an assayer and refiner, who are paid \$3,000 each. Besides the chief clerk, there are seventeen others, all of whom are liberally paid. Some allege that the gold passing through the office shows an adherence to the palp of the manipulators; but this is said to be impossible, owing to the stringent regulations prevailing in the department. James B. Taylor, Wm. Stewart, and Supervisor Little are the more conspicuous candidates for the office of superintendent.

Mr. Taylor is a retired merchant. His large pecuniary disbursement in the recent campaign is said to entitle him to compensation by giving him charge of this department.

Mr. Stewart is the president of the board of supervisors. He is a large builder.

Mr. Little is one of the supervisors, a merchant, and an active republican politician.

Throughout all the city federal offices very elongated faces may just now be seen. Hardly a clerk feels that his head will escape the official gullotine of the incoming administration.

THE CROTON AQUEDUCT DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD—BREAKAGES—IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGH BRIDGE—ROBS BLOCK PAVEMENT—STREET REPAIRS—SEWERS, WALLS AND PUMPS.

The report of the Croton aqueduct for last year has just been published. On its presentation to the common council, an abstract was given in *The World*, but the following is a more extended notice of it.

First is noted the financial condition of the department. During the year the receipts were as follows:

Water rents.....	\$756,331.80
Penalties.....	10,337.73
Bever connections.....	21,301.00
Permitting excavations.....	121,849.17
Fewers for taps in pipes.....	2,417.50
Sanitary.....	2,877.78
Total.....	\$810,187.71

The unexpended balances from 1869, with the several appropriations for 1869, are stated in connection with the expenditures in the following table:

	Appropriations including balance for 1869.	Expenditures in 1869.
Croton water works extension	\$968,108.83	\$649,108.83
Aqueduct repairs and improvements.....	29,249.41	17,664.51
Water pipes and laying.....	120,100.40	101,083.41
Street excavations.....	121,849.17	121,850.00
Bevera, rebuilding, repairing and cleaning.....	70,000.00	66,991.00
Walls, pumps, &c.....	4,310.00	4,310.00
Rob's pavement, improvement.....	56,842.65	628.87
Statistical tables.....	308.61	308.61
Salaries.....	30,000.00	29,260.73
Contingencies.....	5,000.00	2,774.08
Total.....	\$1,041,638.70	\$978,978.98

The above figures show an unexpected balance of \$68,259.72, which was added to the appropriations for this year.

This last year the examination of the interior of the aqueduct, which is generally made in the early part of a winter, was omitted. In the case of this examination, made necessary by existing circumstances, the time finally fixed upon for shutting off the water at Croton dam was 8 o'clock on the morning of the 4th of December. At the time the order was given, the water in the receiving reservoir was already twenty inches below the top water line, and in the following morning the water had fallen to a level below the usual height at that point. From close observation and experiments made during the fortnight previous to the 4th of December, it became evident that the usual (though dishonest) habit of letting water run waste in dwelling houses and stores, to prevent the freezing, had already become a serious evil for the winter, and it was impossible, with such a low stage through the outlet pipes, to fill the receiving reservoir to the height deemed necessary before the examination could be entered upon with safety. During this time the thermometer was not down to freezing point, and even the usual inadequate excuse for this climatic condition was wanting. It was very evident that, should the weather become suddenly colder during the time set for the repairs, the waste from this cause would be increased, and equally evident, from past experience, that, should this waste be added to the usual consumption during the time the gates were closed, the city would be without water before the examination could be finished. A second examination laid in 1869, was made on the 27th, 28th and 29th October. At the time the gates were closed, the water in the receiving reservoir was eleven inches below the top water line. The thermometer, during the time the water was shut off, stood at 43 degrees (Fahrheit) and next morning it ranged lower than that point during the fall. There could have been no waste on the pretext of freezing weather. During 1860 the water in the receiving reservoir stood, as before stated, twenty inches below the top level; the temperature was but little above the freezing point, and the height of the water in the aqueduct still lower temperature day by day. Under those circumstances, it was deemed more judicious to postpone the examination until spring.

The breakage of the two main conduit pipes in Fifth avenue, near Sixty-fourth street, on the night of the 6th of last December, is given at length.

Had the examination and repair of the aqueduct not been postponed, the break would have occurred at a moment when the supply from Croton dam was wholly cut off, and the aqueduct in such a stage of repair, that the extent of the break would have been impossible. With the distributing reservoir entirely empty, and the receiving reservoir nearly so, the city would soon have been utterly without water. The results of such a disaster it is not easy to comprehend. The cause of the rupture of these mains was said to be that which resulted in an accident in the same avenue, near Fifty-fourth street, in October, 1859; though, fortunately, at that time, but one of the mains was broken. These two mains were originally put down in the Fifth avenue in 1842, and were laid at the usual depth below what was, at the time, the water main in the Fifth avenue. Since that time the grade of the avenue has been changed, and recently the operations for bringing it up to the new grade have been completed. By this new grade, the avenue at this point has been raised thirteen feet. At the place where the pipes were broken, the avenue crosses a piece of wet, low land, and the height of the water main, which crosses the street, is upwards of twenty-two feet. On either side of this low land, the embankment for the avenue rests upon solid ledges of rock, which rise above the swampy ground between them. When the superincumbent weight, due to thirteen feet of additional filling, and the height of the water main, was added to the sole of the former roadway a certain depth into the wet or compressible earth between the two ledges, while the unyielding base afforded by these ledges prevented a like settlement at the two ends of the embankment. Under these circumstances, it would not be surprising that the weight of the water main would cause a deflection in the line of the pipe greater than that provided for in its joints, and the pipe must therefore give way. It may be asked, why was not this accident foreseen and guarded against, by raising the pipes, so as to correspond with the new grade of the street? The only answer to this question necessary is, that an attempt to raise these mains to the height required, would have been provided of supplying the city through other mains, with a quantity equal to that which is brought to us through the two in question, would have brought

with far more danger to the city than any which is likely to result from the most serious accident which could happen to them in their present position. The probability of the occurrence of such an accident to our inhabitants every hour (as the recent accident has proved), it would be necessary to raise them while full of water, and to keep them in an interrupted flow during the whole of the work. During the whole of the operation of raising them they would be in the same position as they are now, and, in the present position, and there would be, of necessity, certain stages of the work in which, if a break in either pipe should take place, a disaster might occur, in comparison with what that of the 5th of December would be a trifle. The board has, therefore, not only a right to apply to the legislature for a special law, which would enable it to go on with the law. A law to that effect was passed April 16, 1860, and, in accordance with its provisions, arrangements were immediately made for the rapid prosecution of the work. A contract for the supply of the pipes and other materials, and a contract for the mechanical construction and supply of all other materials for the gate-houses (excepting granite) was made with Messrs. Fairchild, Walker & Co. The terms of both contracts are believed to be advantageous to the city, and the best ever made in connection with the present law, as shown in the southern gate-house, now in a considerable state of forwardness, and in the character of the granite and the workmanship to be seen in the stone yards near the reservoir.

The next work in importance now in progress, is the improvement of the structure near the embankment now being right over the bridge through two pipes, each three feet in diameter, laid as inverted siphons. These two pipes were intended to bring across the bridge one-half of the quantity which could be delivered by the aqueduct, but are capable of doing so only by an arrangement at the gate house, with which they have been already provided. The improvement of the High bridge consists in putting down a pipe large enough to bring over all the water which can be delivered into it through the aqueduct, with a loss of head of but one foot.

The pipe is of wrought iron, and ninety and one-half inches in diameter. This wrought iron pipe is supported by a heavy cast-iron arch, which is between the two three feet pipes now there, and at a height sufficient to allow two feet of clear space between it and the old pipes, for the free movement of workmen in repair, etc. Proper provisions for the contraction and expansion of this pipe is made by rollers throughout, and the movable joints near the structure. It will be connected with the gate houses at each end in the same manner as the present pipes are connected. It is not proposed to remove the present pipes, but arrange them in such a manner that they can be used at any time, either in conjunction with the new pipe or separately. Opportunity for repairs at either of the pipes will be given when needed, without suspending the flow of water into the city.

The contract for the wrought iron plates for this pipe embraces the supply of 648,000 pounds of flat iron. The amount of the contract is \$26,936.12. Nearly all the iron under it has been delivered.

The contract for the mechanical construction of the gate-houses for the work, and expansion made necessary, from the time of the plates in this city to the completion of the pipe in its place on the High bridge. This contract will amount to about \$50,000. Of the pipe, about 1,500 feet are already on the bridge, and of this quantity a length of about 350 feet has been already laid. The work, which has been prosecuted with vigor and judgment, and with a degree of excellence that cannot be surpassed. As in the case of the gate-houses for the new reservoir, the details of this work at the High bridge are considered worthy of more extended notice than can be given in this report. It is proposed, in connection with this work, to include them fully in the special communication, descriptive of the gate-houses.

The board is now engaged in putting down a new main pipe to connect the receiving reservoir with the general distribution of the city below Forty-second street. This pipe will be laid at the same depth as the gate-chamber, from the east side of the receiving reservoir, through Eighth street to Fourth avenue, and thence to Thirty-eighth street. Its diameter is four feet, and its length 13,700, or 2,594 miles. This additional pipe has become necessary to meet the increased consumption of water in the city, and also to insure that the water will be delivered to the city with the least loss of head from friction in the two three-foot mains in Fifth avenue, and when it is connected with the distributing reservoir, and in operation, the additional elevation of water there will be from ten to eleven feet. This main is also necessary as a safeguard in case of accidents which might destroy the receiving reservoir, or the general pipe distribution. The contract for laying it embraces the necessary excavation and embankment for the bed of the pipe, its unloading at the wharves, hauling it to its site, and putting it in place, and performing all the necessary work for its completion. The estimated amount of the contract is \$21,238.35.

During the past year there have been laid 26,331 feet of 6-inch and 6,602 feet of 12-inch pipe. The number of fire hydrants has been increased, making a total, in all, of 2,307 throughout the city. Drinking fountains have been placed in various parts of the city, and the work of the department is, in almost every respect, more than necessary. To their more extended introduction the board at present has no objection. During the past year, many resolutions have been received from your honorable body, and numerous applications have been made to this board by private citizens, for the improvement of the city, and for the introduction of improved streets. It is essential, however, before laying any new line, that the water rents on the buildings erected should equal the interest on the necessary outlay. Where this is the case, the pipes will be laid at an early period as possible. The number and height of the buildings erected during the year, as shown by the books of the department, is 58,755.

Of street repairs a very large amount has been made during the past season—twenty two gangs having been employed in different sections of the city. This has resulted in the great expenditure of labor on our street pavement. The board is not satisfied with any degree of satisfaction to its results. The system of repaving only the more sunken portions of the carriage-way is found to be of but temporary benefit. In a few weeks other portions of the pavement give way, and the street is soon in as bad a condition as before. It is, therefore, proposed to lay down trap-block pavements, not yet acted upon by this board, most irregularly exists in the portion of the expense which is to be borne by the city. No fixed rule appears to govern the common council in determining the rate of expense which would be equitable for the city to bear in the case of such a contract. In some cases, they are to be carried out entirely by local assessment; in others, the city assumes one-half, one-third, two-thirds, and in some important cases, the whole expense. In preparing for the use of the controller, the estimate of the expenditure for the year 1869, the amount of the contract, it is found that there would be required, to meet the proportion of expense to be borne by the city, on work then ordered by the common council,

In sum of \$1,000,000.....	\$177,418.90
Remainder of that and the whole of the present year.....	\$822,581.10
Making a total of.....	\$1,820,000.00

In the estimates for the tax levy, as submitted to

your honorable body, this sum has been reduced to \$350,000. The sum would be sufficient for about one-half of the work directed, and unless it could be increased, the remainder of such amount must be hereafter ordered, most of necessity, to be deferred to a future season. In view of the benefits to be derived from an early and more general adoption of this pavement, the expediency of issuing stock for the creation of a fund for this special purpose is respectfully recommended.

There are over 107 miles of sewers in the city, with a proportionate number of receiving basins and culverts. In these as a vast receptacle, there lodges much of the filth of the street and gutters, and all the refuse of the city. To remove this offensive material, and to clear the sewers and receiving basins in good repair, involves much expense, and this expense must necessarily increase with the annual increase in the number and extent of the sewers. For the construction of sewers, the city is reimbursed by the collection of assessments. There was built during the year..... 35,834 lineal feet. By contract..... 1,854 lineal feet.

Making a total of.....	\$7,188 lineal feet, or seven miles and 228 feet.
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The board recall attention to their recommendation for an established system of sewerage up town, to be carried out by the city, and to be provided for town, consequent upon no system of drainage having been first established.

The granting of permits to construct vaults having been placed by law under the control of this department, the attention of the board was early called to the practice of the contractor, of erecting them beyond the curb line. In consequence of this encroachment on the streets by the walls of neighboring vaults, the operation of repairs to sewers and water pipes has been impeded, and the proper proposition of fire hydrants materially affected. To prevent, if possible, further injury from this cause, the board has issued orders to the contractor, for the construction of vaults beyond the curb line. This rule has been generally approved of, and its evident importance has induced the board to continue it in force.

During the past year, four walls have been filled, and 517 walls repaired, over six hundred feet of further work, and in such a state as not to be available without building. The walls that were erected over were in available condition; they were protected in such manner that, should any necessity arise for their use, they could be brought into operation in a few hours. There are now standing in the city, on the ground, 100 walls in process of the board to maintain them in good working order.

NURSERY AND CHILD'S HOSPITAL.

The seventh anniversary of this admirable and useful institution was celebrated yesterday, in the building of the institution, by the managers and their friends. A large number of prominent clergy men were present, among whom were Rev. John Cotton Smith, Rev. Mr. Herrick, and Rev. C. H. Chipp.

The first directress, Mrs. Abraham Bininger, presided, and the proceedings were opened by the reading of selections from the Scriptures, and the offering of a prayer by Rev. John Cotton Smith.

The secretary's report for the past year is very interesting. After some few remarks about the financial difficulties which threatened the institution towards the close of the year—from which it was so happily rescued by the brilliant success of the "Santa Claus" festival—the secretary proceeds as follows in relation to the resignation of Mrs. Dubois:

But we have had more than this to struggle against. An almost irreparable loss to "the nursery" has occurred in the withdrawal of our first directress from all active labor in our behalf. That any expressions of regret could explain the severity of the loss, would be useless, inasmuch as simply as a friendly co-worker, every heart will answer it impossible; for her interest and devotion to the cause reacted upon all brought within her influence, imbuing every one with the desire to attain her high standard of duty. But when we consider the active energy she brought to bear on all out-door departments, her untiring labors, her loss to the nursery she has founded, and finally finally established, were crushed beneath the indomitable determination to work out this problem of helping tender, neglected infancy to live, we don't wonder at the success which has attended her unswerving efforts, but look only and fearfully into the future, when our institution will be deprived of her vigilant labors and unwearied zeal.

The resignations of several of the members of the board of physicians, is also mentioned. The secretary then continues as follows:

It is, perhaps, little known to the public, that in addition to the infants that we shelter from harsh usage and neglect, the number of our growing children is seldom less than forty. These children are subjected to the kindest and most judicious training. Not only are their bodies cared for, but their spiritual and moral and warm feelings provided for them, but they are under the constant supervision of resident tea hrs. Four hours a day they are instructed in the rudiments of an English education, reading writing history, geography, and arithmetic; and the rest of their time is usefully employed by the large number of children, by the little ones in beautiful games and exercises.

During the year one hundred and twenty-five women and three hundred and thirty-seven children have been received into the institution—making total of four hundred and twenty-six. Forty-three women have been furnished with situations as wet nurses, and the present number of inmates is given as—children, one hundred and twenty-six; nurses, twenty; employes, eighteen; total, one hundred and seventy-three. The report concludes as follows:

We are commended by many who should be our friends, for the high price of board asked for our children. Many think that our subscription and donations should be applied to the support of our children, and not to the support of our board. We are not sorry to see our doors freely and unreservedly for the sick and homeless children of charity, could we do so, but a reference to our treasurer's report will prove how small a proportion the said lists bear to our expenditures, and give a sad verification of the absolute necessity of our often repeated appeals for aid.

We can only say to those prejudiced against us, come and see for yourselves; see the bright, happy faces of our growing children; see the distressing, diseased condition of many of our applicants; see the care bestowed upon the sick and suffering of our hospital and for a moment consider the uncleanliness, wretchedness and filth of the apartment, the homes of these little ones; contrast their birthright with their present benefits, and then answer whether we are right or wrong in reminding you in your plenty that God's

"Poor ye have always with you," and that He has said "Inasmuch as you do it unto the least of my little ones you do it unto me." March 1, 1860. Mrs. Morr, Secretary.

A very affecting letter was read from Mrs. Dubois, in which she presented her resignation as acting manager of the institution, and expressed her best wishes for its success.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR. JNO. W. FRANCIS.—At the regular monthly meeting of the board of governors of the Woman's Hospital of the state of New-York, held at No. 71 West Thirtieth street, Thursday evening, the 28th ult., Hon. James W. Beckman, the president, took the chair, and Joseph B. Collins acted as secretary, pro tem. After the reading of the minutes, Dr. J. Marlow Sims announced to the board the death of Dr. John W. Francis, one of its members, and moved the appointment of a committee to prepare resolutions expressive of the sense of the board on this sorrowful event; whereupon the president appointed Messrs. George T. Trimble, Peter Cooper and Dr. Sims as said committee, to which the President, Mr. Beckman, was added. The committee retired for consultation, and on their return submitted the following:

Resolved, That we bow with reverence and humility to this dispensation of Providence, which has mournfully withdrawn from the community one of its most efficient members; a man distinguished for great purity of character, untiring industry, extensive benevolence, and devotedness to the cause of the poor and to the interests of the Woman's Hospital.

Resolved, That in the life of this pure and good man we have an example worthy of all praise and imitation, and which we are bound to emulate, and that the hospital has lost its great advocate, and one of its best friends.

Resolved, That we tender our sympathies to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That, to perpetuate his name and good deeds, we will erect a tablet to his memory, appropriately inscribed, and placed in the hall of the hospital, in honor of a noble and good man, and that said ward shall bear his name.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the board to the family of our deceased associate, and also to the daily papers of this city for publication.

These resolutions were sustained, in brief and per-