

The bill incorporating "The Salt-water Supply Company of the City of New York" is now depending before the Legislature. It has excited much less comment than it has deserved, for the water supply of the city is admitted on all hands to be not only an important subject but a subject of pressing importance. It is seriously urged that the reservoirs from which we draw our present supply be enlarged and new lakes fifty miles away be put under contribution to our necessities. And yet here flowing at our feet is an inexhaustible supply of water which is perfectly suitable for all the purposes except one or two for which water is wanted. It can be had for a hundredth part or so of the price we pay for fresh water from the Croton lake. By a proper system of combination the salt water could be used exclusively for such purposes as washing the streets and extinguishing fires. These are the most wasteful of all the modes in which water is used. These needs once supplied the present apparatus for the collection and distribution of fresh water would supply all our needs of fresh water for years and years to come. But to do all that it might do, the salt-water supply should be under the same administration as the fresh-water supply. Certainly the most effective and the most economical method of supplying both would be to supply them together. If we keep the Croton aqueduct a public work we ought to make the river aqueducts public works also. If we leave to private hands the salt-