

WASTE OF WATER.

A perusal of the reports of the various water-companies supplying our principal cities, will exhibit the alarming recklessness and extravagance prevalent all over the country in the use, or rather abuse of water. If the cities referred to had completed their growth, no great exception could be taken to this copious use. But it must be remembered that the progress of the towns and cities of this country is very rapid, and the census returns exhibit a steady and vigorous increase. The water-works of most of these places were constructed more with a view to present necessities, or, at farthest, but slight notice was taken of future emergencies. In view of the future prospects of growing towns, and the enlarged demands which may be expected upon their sources of water supply in the ratio of natural increase, it becomes a study of great importance as to the maintenance of this supply, and the probability of its being ample for future necessities.

In the report of the Cochituate Water Board of Boston, Mass., it is stated that the amount of water used during the year averaged the enormous amount of 97 gallons to each individual daily! Such an unreasonable abuse of water privilege as this is without a parallel, we believe, and it should be immediately checked. If it continues in this ratio, the inhabitants of Boston may, with some show of reason, feel alarmed lest their city will, at no very distant day, experience the inconvenience of a limited supply. These remarks, however, do not apply to Boston alone, but may be suggested in reference to other cities where similar extravagance occurs.

The remedy for this extravagance is simple and easily applied. We have repeatedly urged on our water companies the importance of introducing meters into general use as a means of effectually

checking such wastefulness. Such instruments are now made, and their correctness has been abundantly tested. The evidence of the many companies which have made the experiment of using them attached to the service pipes of large consumers, has been very satisfactory as regards their value. All companies—particularly those whose supply is limited—would do well to give them a fair and faithful trial, and we are convinced their interests would be largely promoted by introducing them into general use. This subject is worthy of the attention of the engineers of water-works, and we hope they will award it a full share of consideration.