A POOR FILTER.

Why One Central American Town Had Bad Drinking Water.

Here is an incident that illustrates the unexpected difficulties which enterprise has sometimes to face in certain regions of Central America: From a certain large lake an important town drew its supply of water. By means of powerful steam driven pumps the water was drawn from the lake through a strong iron pipe, which, after running some eighty or ninety yards into the lake from the shore, ended in an upward turn, a short arm bent at right angles to the pipe and rising to within a few feet of the surface. Suddenly an epidemic visited the town in question. The company's reputation being threatened, it was decided to straightway pull up the streets and expose the main pipes and conduits.

The entire system was laid bare, from the outskirts of the town to the very shores of the lake, but the minutest examination failed to reveal any suspicious feature. Then, almost at their wits' end, for the epidemic was raging as badly as ever, the officials entered upon the last lap and turned their attention to the submerged portions of the conduit, and here it was they found the cause. A huge alligator had been drawn toward the mouth of the main by the very strong influx, and, being unable to release itself from the suction, had remained there until it died, and thus, for goodness knows how long, all the water consumed in the town had first filtered through the decomposed carcass of the alligator.

HUMANITY'S HUNGERS.

What They Are and the Ages at Which They First Appear.

Professor Earl Barnes is authority for the following list of "human hungers" and the ages at which they can first be noticed:

Hunger for food and drink—infancy.
Hunger for action—infancy.
Hunger for knowledge—infancy.
Hunger for companionship — six weeks.
Hunger for property—two years.
Hunger for self aggrandizement—five years.
Hunger for beauty—two years.
Hunger for reasoning—seven years.
Hunger for worship—thirteen years.
Hunger for righteousness — fifteen years.

The natural desire for food and drink is strongest, said the professor, at birth. After twenty the appetite should, if not misused, become less and less till at seventy a man or woman ought to require only one small meal a day.

The "hunger" for property is very strong at about fifteen—the "collecting" age, when boys will amass anything, from stamps to beetles. When all other "hungers" fail the "property hunger" still exists, and a man is most likely to be a miser when he is nearest his grave.

The "hunger" for beauty—that is, the real "beauty hunger," which means the admiration of art for art's sake—is the most uncommon of all.—London Express.

The Defects of Memory.

With the mass of men it is unquestionable that one fact drives out another, and it is doubtful if the most learned person carries in his mind more details of knowledge when fifty years old than he carried at twenty. It is only that he carries different things. The great lawyer, for instance, obliged to retain in his memory all the minutiae of the most complex case, with the liability of hopeless defeat should one fact drop out of place in the chart of his mental voyage, may very likely have to enter on another case by wholly forgetting the first one. He can no more carry it all with him than he can carry the knowledge by which he perhaps graduated summa cum laude from college ten years before—as, for instance, chemistry or the differential calculus.—Atlantic.

The Umbrella.

An umbrella is a "little shade." Cotgrave in 1611 defined an "umbrello" as "a (fashion of) round and broad fanne, wherwith the Indians (and from them our great ones) preserve themselves from the heat of a scorching sunne." To Ben Jonson and Beaumont and Fletcher likewise the "umbrella" was a sunshade. According to Florio (1598) an umbrella was "a little round thing that women bare in their hands to shadow them; also, a broadbrimd hat to keep off heat and rayne; also, a kind of round thing like a round skreene that gentlemen use in Italy in time of sommer."

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The old lady was at her best on this festive occasion, and at a pause in the wedding breakfast her young relative looked over at her with a twinkling smile.

"Tell us why thee never married, Aunt Patience?" he said, teasingly.

"That is soon told, William," said the old Quakeress, calmly. "It was because I was not as easy pleased as thy wife was."

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