A FILTER BED.

The muddy, roiled state of the lake water so much of the time this season, has not only given much annoyance to the people, but has induced some sickness without doubt, though so far as we know, no severe cases of illness have been traced to the lan water. . There we probably tenfold more danger from the old wells about town, which many still use, than in the lake water, for the houses are so thick in some parts of the city, cess-pools and sink drains, are so numerous, to say nothing of stables, etc, that we!ls are contaminated of necessity, and we have got to fall back on the lake water unless we go to the artesian wells or buy these patent waters on sale.

Hence we regard a filtering bed or filter of some kind a necessity, especially as Supt. Laing shows in his report, that going out 2,000 feet farther into the lake with the intake pipe would not give us clear water. It might give us water more free from contamination by sewage, but not much more free from mud and dirt, as the clay bottom of the lake extends out beyond the point that would be reached by the 2,000 feet extension.

A filtering bed will take out all the floating dirt, mud and vegetable matter, all of which is more or less injurious, some of it fatally so to health to say nothing about the convenience and neatness of having clean water. Every house wife knows how annoying it is to have the mud and dirt settle in her pails, kettles, pans, wash bowls, etc, and all that a filter would remove, and it is something we have got to have. There is no other way of remedying that evil, and it must be remedied, and so we say a filter bed is a necessity.

But when all this is said and done an evil, and perhaps the greater evil remains, for the seeds of the worst diseases, as typhoid fever, diphtheria, and other symotic diseases, are not taken out of water by a filter. If there are over two million of bacteria, in a single drop of water, as we are told there are, anyone can see that it would need a very fine filter to sift them all out. A filter is a fine

tooth comb to comb the dirt and disease germs out of the water. But the worse germs are in the water in solution like sugar in your coffee and stay there in spite of a filter. Of course the only absolutely pure water is distilled, but the artesian, filtered through miles. it may be of sand and gravel and limestore beds undergoing probably some chemical changes, is pure enough for all practical purposes. But while we use lake water, as we shall for the next 500 years, we must have a filter of some kind. But get an analysis of the water first.

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